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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-177
Tuesday
13 September 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD1309133088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Release of Cordes—FRG national Rudolf Cordes was released in Beirut 12 September and was subsequently taken to Damascus under Syrian protection, DPA reported. A Syrian official said Cordes was in "good health" after his captivity, which lasted nearly 20 months. In comments cited by the agency, FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher revealed that he had prior knowledge of the hostage's release as a result of contacts with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, who told Genscher the release date on 24 August. Genscher thanked Iran for using its influence with the hostage takers, and he also thanked Syria for organizing Cordes' safe departure from Beirut. The FRG will now use its good relations with Iran and Syria to help free other hostages in Lebanon, he added. Genscher also stressed that the FRG paid no ransom and met no conditions to secure Cordes' release.

The kidnappers issued a statement which said their decision to release Cordes was in response to requests from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iran, Beirut radio noted.

In a separate development, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon revealed that a U.S. national escaped a kidnap attempt after celebrating his marriage to a Lebanese girl in Ba'labakk.

'Usayran Detention—Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran was abducted by Lebanese Forces (LF) gunmen in the Museum area of Beirut 13 September and taken to the LF Military Council building in Al-Karantina, Beirut radio announced. Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently reported that 'Usayran was released following consultations involving the LF commander.

Presidential Election—It is still possible to reach a solution that will permit holding the presidential elections before 23 September and "nothing is ruled out if the Americans reconsider their stand," Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' asserted in a press statement cited by the Voice of Lebanon. U.S. officials told Syria that they do not object to promoting important political reforms in Lebanon, Al-Shar' said, but the Americans subsequently "backtracked" and "miscalculated."

Reacting to the parliament speaker's announcement that the election will take place 22 September in the Chamber of Deputies permanent premises in Al-Najmah Square, a Lebanese Forces official cited by Radio Free Lebanon asserted that the choice of this location is clear evidence that "the other party intends to torpedo the session." Meanwhile, Raymond Iddih confirmed his intention to run for the presidency, Beirut radio noted.

Iran

IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust was one of three ministers who failed to obtain a vote of confidence during a Majlis vote on 21 ministers nominated by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Tehran radio reported. The ministers of agriculture and education also failed to obtain majority support from the 247 deputies who voted. Among the 18 approved by the Majlis, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati obtained the most support with 225 votes, while much lower scores were received by 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and Behzad Nabavi, the ministers of Interior and Heavy Industries.

The defeat of the three ministers means that the cabinet now has six vacant seats as the ministries of Construction Jihad, Energy, and Commerce are currently unfilled, IRNA noted. The agency said the Majlis would debate the competency of three nominees for these posts 13 September.

Iraq and the United States

The Arab League Council expressed support for Iraq's position on the Kurdish issue, stating that Iraq is being subjected to a "media campaign" by the U.S. Senate and some Western circles in an attempt to "distort" its victories and harm the Arab nation, Tunis radio reported. An Egyptian Foreign Ministry source cited by Cairo radio likewise said the U.S. Senate imposed sanctions against Iraq on the "pretext" that the latter used chemical weapons against the Kurds. Such serious accusations against Iraq require cogent evidence, the source stressed. Further support for Iraq was expressed by Kuwait's ARAB TIMES, which viewed the Senate's moves against Iraq as part of a "Zionist" campaign.

Among other Iraqi reaction, Baghdad television broadcast a film depicting the "ugly crimes" committed by the United States, INA noted.

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

The Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers will hold another plenary session in Geneva 13 September, according to IRNA and INA reports.

Among recent press coverage of the talks, London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is "losing hope" of achieving any fundamental breakthrough. Kuwait's AL-QABAS carried a report on "secret Iranian proposals" aimed at ending the deadlock. Iran is ready to guarantee full freedom of shipping for Iraqi ships and is ready to accept the dispatch of a UN team to study the clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab, the paper said, but it still adheres to the Algiers agreement and is unwilling to sign a new border agreement.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

Pakistani Air Force F-16's hit two Afghan warplanes with missiles while intercepting a group of six Afghan aircraft which violated Pakistani airspace over North-West Frontier Province 12 September, Islamabad radio announced. The intruders were on a bombing mission, the radio said, adding that searches are underway for the wreckage of the two planes which were hit. Monitored Afghan media have not thus far been observed to mention the Pakistani claim.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry official Gennadiy Gerasimov told journalists that Pakistan has been making "unfounded and irresponsible" statements about Afghanistan in an attempt to justify its "growing interference" in that country, TASS reported. The Soviet Foreign Ministry has twice summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in connection with Pakistan's accusations about alleged Afghan Air Force forays inside Pakistan, Gerasimov noted, and the Soviet side has lodged protests with the Pakistanis over their own "hostile actions."

PLO Affairs

"Responsible" Palestinian sources cited by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio affirmed that a report will be submitted to the upcoming extraordinary PNC session recommending the declaration of an independent Palestinian "state" with Jerusalem as its "capital." The report will also propose that a provisional government be announced and that a demand be made to join the United Nations. The sources indicated that these issues were discussed during the 11-12 September talks in Tunis between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and leaders of other Palestinian factions. A PLO official cited by Tunis radio stated that the final decision on the announcement of a Palestinian state will be "according to the opinion of the majority."

Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, head of the "Islamic Center" in Gaza, announced in an interview cited by the clandestine Al-Quds radio that he has "reservations" about the PLO's desire for a secular state, stressing that "the state's constitution must be Islam." Meanwhile, the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD reported that 'Arafat will meet with Islamic Resistance Movement leaders from the occupied territories on 19 September in an attempt to improve coordination between the latter and the "unified leadership of the uprising," WAKH noted.

Jordan

Jordanian and British officials signed an agreement in London 9 September for the supply of "a number" of Tornado aircraft to Jordan, Amman radio disclosed.

Saudi Arabia

Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir denied reports that Saudi Arabia has contributed to the fall in oil prices by opposing the convening of an OPEC prices committee meeting, SPA reported. Nazir stressed that such allegations are false, because the Kingdom "has always been the first to respond to attending any meeting agreed on by OPEC member countries."

The fall in oil prices was also discussed at a cabinet meeting chaired by King Fahd, who stressed the need for cooperation among all OPEC members and other oil producers to adhere to production ceilings and ensure that prices return to "normal," according to SPA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Assails Media Campaign Against Iraq

LD1209225188 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The Arab League Council has described the media campaign to which Iraq is being subjected by the U.S. Senate and some Western circles as aiming to distort Iraqi victories and harm the Arab nation due to its victories in the eastern gate [al-bawwabah al-sharqiyah].

In a press statement released on the conclusion of its 90th ordinary session yesterday [12 September] in Tunis, the council added that the campaign represented blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and an attempt to influence the Iraq-Iran peace talks currently being held under U.S. auspices.

Assesses Cease-Fire Talks, PLO

LD1309095088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 13 Sep 88

[By Nasser Altoura]

[Text] Tunis, Sept 13 (KUNA)—The Arab League last night condemned the Zionist-inspired American media smear campaign against Iraq as flagrant interference in Iraq's domestic affair.

The League's ministerial council, having concluded meetings of its 90th ordinary session, charged that American media lies of alleged Iraqi employment of chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels, are designed to influence the course of the Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva.

The council underlined the need for a just and lasting peace settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict on basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 that guarantees Iraq's historic rights in Shatt al-'Arab, its only deepwater outlet to the Arabian Gulf.

The League called on both belligerents not to interfere in the other's home affairs, and show respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The council took sides with Iraq against any plot to influence the outcome of the Geneva peace negotiations at the expense of Iraqi national and historic rights.

The Arab countries also urged Iran to refrain from anything that obstructs the Geneva peace process with its Arab neighbor.

In examining Iranian affairs, the council called on member states to monitor and intensify efforts to halt Iranian Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine.

It entrusted the League General Secretariat to draft a report for submission to the council of Iran's armament relations with the Zionist entity following Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598.

Turning to Palestinian issues, the council emphasized the need for safeguards to the well being of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, and called for the reconstruction of Palestinian refugee camps there in liaison with U.N. for Lebanon's sovereignty.

The council urged Arab countries to raise their contributions to UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] finances to the 1981 level, while stressing international responsibility towards Palestinian refugees.

The League said it would keep up efforts to press for Japanese Government recognition of the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, whilst expressing profound concern about the development of Israeli-Japanese relations.

The council denounced U.S. continued backing for the Zionist entity, and viewed the American-Israeli signing of an agreement for the development of missiles as a fresh support to Israeli atrocities.

In discussing African affairs, the League underscored the importance of bolstering Afro-Arab cooperation and solidarity according to mutual benefit.

The council called a meeting of League permanent delegates in November to discuss ways of enhancing works of the standing committee of Afro-Arab cooperation.

The ministers praised a resolution of foreign ministers of the Organization of African Unity calling on African countries not to restore diplomatic links with Israel.

The council also suggested a meeting of League officials to draft proposals for envigorating Euro-Arab dialogue and lifting European sanctions on some Arab countries.

The ministerial council lashed out at a meeting of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) in occupied Jerusalem this year in violation of international law.

The council approved a 30 million dollar budget for League Secretariat for the next year.

UN Head 'Losing Hope' of Negotiations Progress

PM1209113788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Sep 88 p 1

[Khalil Matar report: "Perez de Cuellar Thinks of Moving Negotiations to New York"]

[Excerpt] New York—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from sources well informed about what is happening in the Geneva negotiations aimed at securing a solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict that Iran has informed Javier Perez de Cuellar of its withdrawal of agreement to hold direct negotiations with Iraq, since no breakthrough has been achieved regarding positions and since Iraq still rejects the Algiers agreement as a sound basis for drawing boundaries.

The sources say that in his meetings and conversations Perez de Cuellar is talking in terms of losing hope regarding the possibility of achieving any fundamental breakthrough. He says he is currently thinking of moving the negotiations to New York for more than one reason, most important of which is that it would be easier for the five permanent member states of the Security Council to exert pressure on the two parties in the negotiations to enable him to achieve some kind of breakthrough.

While the Geneva direct negotiations are almost at a standstill regarding the question of drawing boundaries and the Algiers agreement, the UN secretary general's circles believe it will be difficult to achieve any breakthrough unless Iraq accepts the Algiers agreement as a basis—not for a solution, but for drawing up a new agreement similar, in some ways, to the Algiers agreement. But Iraq has informed negotiators at the sessions that the Algiers agreement is invalid, especially as one of its secret appendices talks about the shah's ceasing support for the Kurds in northern Iraq. The Kurdish question was resolved when their military structure was destroyed. Thus the reasons for maintaining such an agreement are now invalid. Moreover, Iraq will not forfeit its full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab. [passage omitted]

GCC States Contacted Over Iran-Iraq Talks

PM0709124988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Sep 88 p 1

[Hasin Bunyan report: "Perez de Cuellar Seeks Aid From Gulf States To Eliminate Geneva Negotiation Obstacles"]

[Excerpt] Geneva, Riyadh—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has made important contacts with the GCC states, urging them to intervene and iron out the obstacles now facing the Geneva peace talks between Iraq and Iran to reactivate negotiations and implement Security Council Resolution 598, as no breakthrough has been achieved so far.

Special sources have informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the GCC states will play an indirect role in the Geneva negotiations, indicating that the GCC states are now witnessing high-level political coordination. The sources said that the GCC foreign ministers' meeting to be held in Riyadh Sunday will be a crucial one as it will decide on the final formula for this role in addition to a joint stand on the peace battle, which the sources say will be "fiercer than the war battle." Moreover, Gulf ministers will also discuss the situation during and after the Geneva negotiations because the GCC states will enter these negotiations as an indirect party, even in the final stages. The sources indicated that the GCC states are approaching a crucial and important phase in these negotiations because Clause 8 of Security Council Resolution 598 stipulates that there should be "coordination to strengthen security and stability in the region, namely via consultations among Iran, Iraq, and the other states of the region." [passage omitted]

Various Officials View Mideast Problems

PM1209111388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Sep 88 pp 1-2

[Ghassan Shirbil report: "Three Arab Foreign Ministers Talk to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT"]

[Excerpts] Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he will respond to President Ronald Reagan's invitation to convene a meeting in New York between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers on 26 September.

'Abd al-Majid said: Yes, I will participate in that meeting, which will be attended by both Ronald Reagan and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Asked why the invitation has come at this particular time, 'Abd al-Majid said: We consider this part of U.S. efforts to reactivate the peace process in the region. We consider any move made for the sake of peace a positive step.

On his country's position on the question of forming a Palestinian government-in-exile 'Abd al-Majid said: We must wait for the Palestinians' decision first. [passage omitted]

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the tripartite talks held in Algiers before the [non-aligned foreign ministers] conference with his Syrian and Libyan opposite numbers Faruq al-Shar' and Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi "was to secure Arab consensus." Asked over which issue such a consensus is required he said: "developments in the Palestinian question." Asked whether such a consensus has been achieved he said: Work is continuing. Answering a question on his country's position on a Palestinian government-in-exile he said: We as Arabs support what the Palestinians decide, but we must know first what they are going to decide."

Informed Arab sources, which attended the tripartite meeting, said that the issue requires more meetings and consultations; "Algerian efforts are continuing." The sources believe that "there is no major problem regarding the Libyan position." The sources say the dispute between Syria and the PLO leadership is still "extremely complicated."

Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the tripartite meeting transcended the issue of nonalignment and that it was natural to focus on "the prime cause of the Arabs."

In reply to a question on a government-in-exile Wisam al-Zahawi, head of the Iraqi delegation to the [nonaligned] ministerial conference, said: We are waiting for the Palestinian decision, and we will support what the Palestinians decide. This has always been Iraq's position, namely backing for Palestinian demands and noninterference in Palestinian decisionmaking; and we hope others will not interfere in the independent Palestinian decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Leaders Begin Consultations in Tunis

Discuss Statehood

LD1209172988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Extensive consultations began in Tunis last night [11 Sep] between the PLO Executive Committee and representatives of most of the Palestinian detachments about the possibility of announcing the formation of a Palestinian state on the basis of UN Resolution No. 181 of 1947. A Palestinian official stated that these consultations are complementary to the consultations which were held 2 weeks ago between the various Palestinian detachments. He added that the idea of announcing the state will be discussed in all its aspects, that remarks relating to the idea have been noted, and there remains only the adoption of the final decision according to the opinion of the majority.

Confer on Uprising, PNC Session

LD1209191088 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The meetings continue in the Tunisian capital of the leaders of the Palestinian revolutionary factions which come under the banner of the PLO, in the presence of the brother leader Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the executive committee of the PLO, and commander-in-chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, and Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the Palestinian National Council, and the members of the council chairmanship, as well as several independent Palestinian personalities.

A responsible Palestinian source has confirmed that since yesterday the Palestinian leaders have been engaged in studying the developments in the Palestinian occupied territories, especially since the Jordanian decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the occupied Palestinian West Bank. In particular, the Palestinian leaders are discussing the development and escalation of the Palestinian popular uprising after its entering its 10th month, and ways of promoting and boosting it, so that our people will be able to continue struggling against the Zionist occupation, and will also realize all their objectives of freedom and deliverance and the setting up of an independent Palestinian state.

The source further said that at these meetings the Palestinian leaders are discussing all the options on the table concerning the forthcoming stage of our continuous struggle. They are also discussing the issue of convening an extraordinary sesson of the PNC.

In this respect, responsible Palestinian sources stated that the report by the legal and political commission, which will be submitted to the PNC at its extraordinary session due to be held next month, includes a recommendation that an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital be declared, and that a provisional government to lead this state be announced. The report also recommends that a demand be made to join the United Nations—in which the PLO will remain as a liberation movement—and the choosing of an Arab capital, other than Tunis, to be the headquarters of the provisional government.

PNC Says No Date, Venue Fixed for Session

JN1309081088 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Sep 88 p 22

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said that the date and venue of the PNC session have not been fixed yet because the studies and consultations about the issues which will be presented to the Council have not yet been concluded.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih told AL-DUSTUR that the PLO Executive Committee will meet during the next few days to discuss the possibilities open to the PLO, namely whether to declare a Palestinian state or a provisional government and any other subject.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih asserted that the decision to convene the PNC still stands. The date and venue of the PNC session is expected to be fixed after the Executive Committee meeting and after the [PNC] legal committee concludes its meetings.

'Arafat Confirms 'Provisional' Government

JN1209115288 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 Sep 88 pp 1, 21

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by 'Abdallah Rashid on 8 September; place not given]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the PLO will not form a government-in-exile but will form a provisional government, because a government-in-exile is appropriate only for states that have governments under occupation. He said the PNC will put forward several political options.

In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD yesterday 'Arafat asserted that all the political trends are directly participating in leading the popular leadership in occupied Palestine. He was clearly responding to the Zionist enemy's attempts to cast doubts on the unified leadership of the uprising and the Islamic trends. He said: "The blessed uprising which is entering its 10th month is escalating daily in an organized, determined, and comprehensive manner throughout our occupied land in a magnificent national unity. All the [political] trends of our people are participating in the uprising be they within or outside the occupied territory or by exercising responsibility within the popular committees that exist in the various parts of Palestine." 'Arafat explained that for instance there are 58 popular committees in Gaza, 51 in Nabulus, 46 in Ramallah and Al-Birah, 18 in the Jabalya refugee camp, and 17 popular committees in the Balatah refugee camp, and that all these committees are carrying out their work regularly. He said the mosques and churches are also participating.

'Arafat said there are various views held by the various trends. He said: "We welcome such views in line with our democratic base. We are proud that the PLO includes all such trends, views, and stands but ultimately we are governed by the rules of Palestinian democracy." 'Arafat referred to the Zionist enemy's attempts to cast doubts on the unified leadership of the uprising and Islamic trends. He said: "I say proudly that I respect the views of my brothers in all these trends. However, all these Islamic trends, and especially the Islamic Jihad and HAMAS-the Islamic Resistance Movement, are participating in the uprising and its activities. 'Arafat warned against the attempts to cast doubts which he said will continue.

'Arafat added: "As you recall, at the beginning of the uprising they said it was a Khomeyniite uprising. The answer came from our Palestinian Christian churches which canceled New Year, Christmas, and Easter celebrations. The impact of that decision was not felt in Palestine alone but was also felt throughout Europe and by the Christian pilgrims who were deprived of the celebrations."

In his interview with AL-ITTIHAD 'Arafat referred to the statement issued by the Islamic organization HAMAS. He declared: "HAMAS has the right to issue a statement. It is also the right of any other Palestinian organization to issue a statement, but what is ultimately important is that they are all committed to the decision made and they all take part in leading the uprising from their various positions. The uprising represents the popular Palestinian unionist base in which we take pride. It will continue in one wave after another until the end of the Israeli occupation of our Palestinian land and until our flag is hoisted above the walls of Jerusalem."

'Arafat said that the PLO will not form a government-in-exile because such a government can only be formed by states that have governments under occupation. What is being proposed now is a provisional government and not a government-in-exile, and that "there are a number of options which will be presented by our PNC after the political and legal committee has submitted its preliminary report". He pointed out that intensive political and legal consultations are underway with a number of international, Arab, and friendly legal experts on this subject. Also, there are political consultations "because we cannot take such a decision without consultation with our Arab brothers and friends in the world."

He said the PNC will convene in Algiers in early October and that there are three invitations from Libya, Iraq, and Tunis to host the PNC.

The Palestinian leader refused to answer a question on whether he will present a political initiative before the European Parliament on 13 September. He only said that "my visit is important in itself." He asserted that there are Zionist attempts to prevent him going to Strasbourg and meeting with some European personalities there. But he said: I say to them again that they cannot hide the sun with their fingers. The PLO moves are not governed by a meeting or a visit. He pointed out that the PLO is recognized by 137 states, and that the states which recognize the enemy represent only three-quarters of this number.

He referred to the voting in the United Nations against the closure of the PLO office in New York. He said that 148 states voted against the resolution, against 2 states which voted for it. This means recognition of the PLO.

Regarding what he will propose to the European Parliament, 'Arafat said: I will ask Europe to shoulder its moral and political responsibility, especially since it, directly or indirectly, contributed to our people's disaster, their suffering, pain, and displacement. Europe must shoulder this responsibility in order to help our people regain their freedom and national independence on their national soil.

Regarding his assessment of the changes in stands of certain distinguished Israeli personalities toward the PLO, he said: I will tell you something more important. It is the book published by (Harkabi), former Israeli chief of Military Intelligence, who issued a number of documents and a book against the PLO charter. In this latest book, "The Difficult Choices" [name as published], he says: "We, the previous leaderships, have made a big mistake in filling the minds of the new generations with certain concepts, to which they became hostages. Now, we must reveal the bare facts to them so that they can deal with them."

'Arafat repeated his saying that "no one can ignore the PLO as the leader of the Palestinian people. This was affirmed by Tamir and the Israeli peace and security council, which includes 40 reserve officers. This was also affirmed by a number of Israeli military and politicians, who could not stand against our people's steadfastness and against this mammoth popular uprising. They had to face the truth because they cannot hide the sun with their fingers."

Regarding the Palestinian factions' meeting in Tripoli, 'Arafat said: The Libyan initiative aimed to attract some brothers, particularly the PFLP-GC and Al-Sa'iqah, to the Palestinian ranks and to make them return to the PNC. He said that a meeting was held but did not result in any tangible results. It was agreed that this effort and dialogue will continue on 10 September in Tunis and Tripoli. He said: In this dialogue, we will proceed from the premise that any new rifle added to the other 1,000 rifles is a new force.

'Arafat said that the messages, which he received recently from the Soviet leadership, have "affirmed the Soviet friends' commitment to the international conference with the participation of the PLO and which is based on achieving the Palestinian people's legitimate rights according to international legitimacy and not on the basis of merely recording these rights. The Soviet leaders also asserted that the Palestine question was discussed during the Moscow summit and during the recent U.S.-USSR meeting in Geneva."

'Arafat Arrives in Abu Dhabi, Issues Statement

JN0809075188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0550 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Sep (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Abu Dhabi tonight from Baghdad on a visit to the UAE. He was received upon arrival by UAE Electricity and Water Minister Hamid ibn Nasir al-'Uwais.

WAKH quoted 'Arafat as saying he will hold consultations with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, on the new developments on the Arab and Palestinian scenes, especially after the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and the restoration of peace at the eastern gate of the Arab nation in the Gulf.

'Arafat stressed that the Palestianian uprising will continue with determination until the Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, is established, God willing.

Palestinian Factions Reject Reconciliation

PM0809140388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Sep 88 pp 1, 2

[Talhah Jibril report: "Little Optimism Regarding Reconciliation Between Damascus Factions and PLO Leadership"]

[Excerpt] London, Tripoli, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Secretaries of the Palestinian factions, except for the Fatah Movement, held an expanded meeting that continued until dawn yesterday to discuss the possibility of achieving Palestinian national unity and formulating a unified stand on developments in the Palestinian arena. The meeting was attended by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who had hastened to invite the Palestinian factions to meet in Tripoli. Faction leaders dined with Col al-Qadhdhafi the night before last.

Palestinian sources who participated in the meeting indicated that the atmosphere "did not inspire optimism at all" regarding the possibility of achieving reconciliation between the Damascus-based factions and the PLO leadership. But they said that dialogue will continue.

Attempts had been made to hold a meeting comprising secretaries of all the factions, including those based in Damascus, to be attended by Yasir 'Arafat, but these did not bear fruit. Palestinian sources indicate that every party is seeking to rally large-scale support for its position. In this context, it is clear that Ahmad Jibril (PFLP-GC) and Col Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Maraghah], Fatah dissident, are both seeking to bring about common ground that would enable them to coordinate with the other Palestinian factions that are under the banner of the PLO, especially the PFLP and DFLP. And it is not known to what extent this can be achieved, though there are increasing doubts about this matter.

According to leading sources, the PFLP and DFLP insist on dialogue on the grounds that it is the road to achieving national unity. PFLP sources say that it is working to crystallize a position to stop plunging into certain policies, as they say. Moreover, there is a difference between the PFLP's position and that of the DFLP on a government-in-exile. [DFLP Secretary General] Nayif Hawatimah told reporters that the matter should be discussed at the level of PLO institutions, whereas [PFLP Secretary General] Dr George Habash declared his objection to the formation of a provisional government.

Meanwhile, Abu Musa told journalists: If an agreement is reached with the other Palestinian factions, a meeting with the PLO leadership would be out of the question. In this context, he said: If we reached an agreement with the other Palestinian factions and then they wanted, in view of that agreement, to reach an understanding with the PLO leadership, we will not abide by that agreement. He added: Our basic condition is not to coordinate or meet with Yasir 'Arafat or his representatives. [passage omitted]

Factions Reject Israeli Recognition at Tripoli

JN0809102588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 6 Sep 88 p 3

[By 'Assaf 'Abbud]

[Text] Damascus—High-ranking Palestinian leaders who attended the recent meetings of Palestinian factions in Libya have disclosed that contacts between the leaders of these factions will continue in both Libya and Tunisia to develop the plan for PLO unity. In an exclusive statement to AL-ITTIHAD the Palestinian leaders said they took part in the expanded and lengthy meeting between the

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the secretaries general of the Palestinian factions, a meeting that was not attended by any representative of the Fatah Central Committee. The Palestinian leaders said specific principles for a dialogue were agreed upon at the meeting in order to achieve Palestinian unity. The Palestinian leaders said that George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, Ahmad Jibril, Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], 'Isam al-Qadi, and Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] attended the lengthy meeting. For the first time Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] personally attended the meeting.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the meeting agreed on political principles that are important for the coming stage with regard to Palestinian unity and in order to confront political challenges. These principles are:

1. Adhering to the Palestine National Charter.

2. Absolutely no recognition of the Zionist enemy.

3. No direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy.

4. No recognition of Resolution No 242.

5. Serious and hard efforts to support and develop the uprising.

The Palestinian leaders stated to AL-ITTIHAD that some secretaries general tried to add some points. 'Isam al-Qadi proposed a clause calling for the severence of relations with Egypt as a condition for the dialogue. George Habash also proposed the rejection and condemnation of intra-Palestinian fighting under any circumstances. The Palestinian leaders said these principles were conveyed to Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat was informed of the principles by Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], representative of the Fatah Central Committee, prior to his departure for the Libyan capital. The Palestinian leaders said that Abu al-Hawl agreed to these principles and promised to study them in greater depth at the Fatah Central Committee meeting scheduled to be held in Tunisia. The Palestinian leaders said the discussions held in Libya constitute important stations in the present stage of Palestinian unity. The leaders emphasized that so far no clear political principles and options were agreed upon by the various factions. However, the Palestinian leaders asserted to AL-ITTIHAD that the dialogue will be resumed by all the factions in the coming weeks in both Tunisia and Libya. The leaders said no position on a provisional government and the proclamation of an independent state has yet crystallized. They said the date of convening a PNC session has been postponed to October 1988.

PLO Official on Palestinian Issues

JN0709205288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (WAKH)—The Palestinian leaders will begin to study the report prepared by the joint political and legal committee on the establishment of a provisional Palestinian Government in Tunis on Saturday [10 September].

This came in a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad by Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, chief of the PLO's Information Department. 'Abd Rabbuh added that the expanded Palestinian meeting held under the chairmanship of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will continue until the PNC convenes in Algiers at the beginning of October. 'Abd Rabbuh said that the PNC will study a working paper, which is being currently drawn up. He added that the working paper contains several ideas, including putting forth a draft political declaration through which the PLO will address the world, proposing that a just solution be concluded on the basis of an Israeli occupation troop withdrawal from the occupied territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in accordance with UN resolutions.

'Abd Rabbuh went on to say that all this will be based on international legitimacy and all UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestine question and the Middle East, including UN Resolution No 181, which provides for the establishment of two states, one of them Israeli. He said that the Israeli state was established, while the Palestinian people have been deprived over a period of 40 years of establishing their independent state.

'Abd Rabbuh affirmed that when the PLO refers to all UN resolutions, it refers to the international conference, which should not be exclusively convoked on the basis of Resolution No 242. He added: We believe that a just solution must be based on tackling the central question, namely the Palestine question. Besides this resolution, which has been approved by all parties, the convocation of the international conference must also be based on granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. Thus, the bases for the convocation of the conference will be so balanced that they can deal with all aspects pertaining to the Palestinian Arab-Israeli conflict in a sufficient manner.

In reply to a question on the provisional government, 'Abd Rabbuh, chief of the PLO's Information Department, said: In principle, there are no differences on the importance of launching this step. The PNC might make a decision in principle regarding the establishment of this government and entrust the PLO Executive Committee with the task of choosing the time and suitable circumstances for launching this step to serve the interests of the Palestinian struggle and advance a just peace after completing Arab contacts and preparing the propitious circumstances to guarantee the success of this step.

'Abd Rabbuh added that any Palestinian government formed will emanate from the PLO and also adhere to the draft political declaration to be issued by the PNC in this regard.

In reply to a question on the existence of any guarantees regarding cooperation with the new government, the chief of the PLO's Information Department said: There has been so far a positive climate. The first thing that interests and concerns the world is the program of this government.

We are interested in the program. Moreover, we are also interested in seeing this step serve as a prelude to the convening of the international Middle East peace conference, which must be held with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

On the U.S. veto of the international peace conference, 'Abd Rabbuh said that the Soviet-U.S. talks have revealed that the U.S. Administration approves the convocation of the international conference.

'Abd Rabbuh added that this approval will be entirely bogus and useless if the United States opposes PLO participation in this conference. He said that such opposition will be similar to an objection on our part to the participation of Israeli or the United States in the conference. He went on to say that all the Arab parties, including Jordan, recognize that the PLO is the sole party authorized to discuss the future of Palestinian territory. 'Abd Rabbuh wondered how can there be talk about an international conference to discuss issues pertaining to a regional settlement in the absence of this party. He indicated that the PLO believes that the U.S. stand is not serious but tactical. He added that there are many voices, including voices inside Israel, which have come to grips with the "bitter" truth affecting them. Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh also said that there will be no solution without the PLO, because it is the party with the unanimous support of the Palestinian people.

'Abd Rabbuh added: As for the issues pertaining to mutual recognition and violence, they are issues that can be discussed within the framework of the international conference. He went on to say that the PLO cannot be asked to recognize [Israel] at a time when the other parties have continued to reject its participation in the works of the conference and also in the settlement process.

As for violence, 'Abd Rabbuh said: How can there be talk of violence at a time when the Israeli occupation authorities are using the fiercest forms of violence against our people inside the occupied territories? He added: The way to resolve the issue of violence is by UN intervention and also by placing the occupied territories under international supervision until the completion of the works of the international conference.

In reply to a question on the likelihood of a change in the tone of the new U.S. Administration toward the Palestine question after the coming elections, the chief of the PLO's Information Department said: We have not seen any essential differences between the policies pursued by successive U.S. Administrations. He gave the example of U.S. President Eisenhower who ordered Israel to withdraw its troops from Sinai during the weeks preceding the U.S. elections—a matter which emphasizes that the U.S. policy will remain unchanged, regardless of the results of the elections.

'Abd Rabbuh added that the process of international detente has begun and will continue. He said general agreement has been reached on resolving regional conflicts. He went on to say that the uprising, which constitutes the greatest pressure factor, broke out 10 months ago and will continue. He added that all these things dictate that the parties proceed on the assigned road; namely, the road of negotiations within the framework of the international conference.

In reply to a question on the results of the meetings of the political and legal committee headed by Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO Political Department, 'Abd Rabbuh said that the committee submitted an initial report to the PLO Executive Committee containing tangible ideas and proposals on the provisional government. He added that these ideas will be discussed in Tunis at the beginning of next week.

As for the intra-Palestinian dialogue which began in Libya, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said: The PLO displayed positive readiness for dialogue with the groups which came to Tripoli. However, they rejected dialogue, demanded the abolition of the PLO's political program, and made other impossible factional demands which entirely close all doors.

'Abd Rabbuh described the dialogue as very secondary and said that the factions working within the framework of the PLO are the ones which represent the various nationalist Palestinian trends. He added that they alone maintain presence in the occupied territories and lead their valiant uprising against the Zionist occupation. He concluded by saying that the door will remain open for these parties to participate in the PNC session if they decide to do so.

In reply to a question regarding whether the PLO's enemies will use the quorum issue as a card to prevent the convening of the PNC session, the chief of the PLO's Information Department said that there will never be any quorum problem pertaining to the PNC, as there is a provision in the statute which stipulates that any PNC member who cannot attend the session because he has been arrested or prevented from doing so is not counted when calculating the quorum. He cited the example of the 120 PNC members in the occupied territories who do not attend PNC sessions because the occupation authorities prevent them from doing so.

'Abd Rabbuh added: If some PNC members other than those residing in the occupied territories are prevented from attending the PNC session, this will not harm the quorum and the Palestinian consensus, as the representatives of all factions will be present as well as the PNC members who represent Palestinian unions, organizations, and groupings. This means that the political quorum will be secured completely in addition to the numerical quorum.

Concluding the interview, 'Abd Rabbuh voiced the hope that the Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation will continue and said: We have demonstrated all positive readiness to open a dialogue with the Jordanian Government and also to reach a complete understanding with it on future moves, including the coordination of political positions on the basis of the summit resolutions and the latest Jordanian decision to sever ties with the occupied territories.

'Abd Rabbuh added that this coordination seeks to unify positions to support the convening of the international conference and to bolster the uprising in a militant and practical manner as decided by the recent Algiers summit.

'Abd Rabbuh indicated that the dialogue with Jordan will continue on the basis of these points and said: We hope to see the Jordanian side displaying the same readiness due to the current circumstances.

PLO Denies Statements Attributed to 'Arafat

JN0409174688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Sep 88

[Text] On 30 August 1988 THE NEW YORK TIMES magazine published what it called the text of an open letter to brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] from the Jewish writer Marick Holter in which he attributes statements to brother Abu 'Ammar. Some Arab newspapers cited this letter yesterday, 2 September 1988 [as heard], and commented on it in articles published today, 3 September 1988.

We declare that the statements that Holter allegedly attributes to 'Arafat are groundless. They are only lies meant to distort the PLO stands toward various issues. We are also surprised by comments of some Arab newspapers published today, 3 September 1988. These newspapers took the contents of Holter's letter for granted and did not verify them. [Words indistinct] Arab newspaper to be cautious and accurate in publishing or commenting on news they receive, and fear God when mentioning the Palestinian people, their national leadership, and their blessed glorious uprising which rocked the foundations of the occupier Zionist enemy.

Fatah Cairo Office Denounces U.S. Senate Move

JN1209132588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (INA)—The Fatah office in Cairo has denounced the U.S. Senate's position which are hostile to both Iraq's and the Arab nation's interests. It urged U.S. public opinion to confront the Senate's policies, which conflict with U.S. interests and relations and impugn the credibility of U.S. attitudes toward all the world's peoples in response to the Zionist lobby's pressures and instructions.

In a statement to an INA correspondent, Fatah's Cairo representative, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, found it strange for the Senate to adopt a stand based only on accusations leveled by parties known for their hostility to both Iraq and the Arab nation. Meanwhile, the Senate has remained silent for 40 years on the Palestinian people's tragedy and has inhumanly ignored the hardships of the starving peoples in Africa and the poor countries of the world, he added.

Al-Qidrah emphasized that the U.S. Administration's response to the Zionist lobby's scheme will seriously affect relations between the world's countries and the United States, as well as these countries' confidence in U.S. credibility. This response will threaten the United States' real interests, he added.

Islamic Group Calls For 'Jihad' on Palestine

NC0709194688 Paris AFP in English 1915 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 7 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement has distributed in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza strip a political document that says only holy war can solve the Palestine problem, Palestinian sources said Wednesday.

The document, distributed recently in the occupied territories, denounced "pacifist solutions and proposals for an international conference" aimed at solving the Palestinian problem.

Such measures are contrary to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or HAMAS, because "Palestine is sacred for the Moslems and cannot be divided or given up, the document said.

"Only a Jihad (Arabic for holy war) can solve the Palestinian problem," the movement, which has a major power-base in Gaza, said in the document, the first of its kind to be distributed in the occupied territories.

It also criticised the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) for wanting to create what it said was a "secular state in Palestine."

"When the PLO embraces Islam as a way of life we will serve as soldiers in its ranks," the document said.

The PLO repeatedly called for a U.N.-brokered international conference on the Middle East. Israel's Labor Party of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is also agreeable to such a forum, but the ruling Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is totally opposed to it.

Last month for the first time ever, Islamic militants succeeded in imposing a general strike in the West Bank, where the movement's influence had hitherto been weak.

The underground leaders of the nine-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories criticised HAMAS, in a communique received Wednesday in Nicosia.

The "Communique 25 of the Unified Leadership of the Uprising" said HAMAS had violated a national consensus by calling strikes other than those agreed by the leaders of the uprising, thus dividing the Palestinian people and "serving the enemy".

Commentary on Tamir's Acceptance of PLO

JN0409110988 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Sep 88

["Talk of the Uprising": "Uprising Continues To Advance and Achievements To Accumulate"]

[Text] To the masses of our heroic people in all parts of the united homeland, as the blessed and heroic uprising of our great steadfast people continues, intensifies, penetrates all barriers and closures, and works miracles on all levels, it knocks the walls of the enemy and opens gaps in it forcefully, despite all the enemy aims [passage indistinct] and its concentrated rallying, comprehensive effectiveness, wide-scale strikes, and daily working programs which clash with the presence of the Zionist occupation in all regions and fields.

If tension, confusion, and disagreements inside the Zionist entity institution and wings of occupation have expressed themselves in many forms recently, the uprising has, through its comprehensive intensification, reached a stage where it is forcing the enemy to bow down and recognize the glaring Palestinian reality. This is what happened a couple of days ago when Avraham Tamir, director general of the Foreign Ministry in the Zionist entity, dropped his bomb with which he awakened the Zionists sleeping on the bed of illusions and said: The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and there is no side other than the PLO which could represent the Palestinians.

Naturally, we expect the combatting wings of the Zionist enemy to attempt anew to blur the picture of the realities crystallizing at the moment, with the aim of continuing the Zionists' losing wager on illusions. These illusions are those of madness, terrorism, violence, and oppression. These attempts, however, will have to break down and be destroyed in the face of the uprising's heroic deeds, achievements, variety of confrontation, hastening of its struggle achievements, and stepping up of the continuing confrontation. Our generations inside occupied Palestine, the generations of the brave uprising, have managed in the past weeks to confront the most violent methods of Zionist oppression and terrorism, thus forcing the attack to retreat with great losses and continuing the initiative of attack against the Zionist entity and its institutions, policies, measures, dense rallies, and sly maneuvers.

In these days, the new incentives are increasing in front of our people and the generations of our heroic uprising. This is due to the wide-scale progress that the Palestinian struggle is achieving on every level, whether political, diplomatic. This is also due to the initiatives taken by the PLO in its great ability to shoulder its responsibilities and fix the foundations of Palestinian independence on reality bases on the one hand, and on local, Arab, and international forums on the other.

These new moral, political, and struggle incentives have given the masses of our heroic uprising the chance to break the total siege and curfew and hinder the prejudiced and accursed enemy from achieving the evil results he was hoping to achieve through his deportation policies. These, however, are the policies that multiplied international condemnation and exposed the enemy's racist reality. They also motivated our people to intensify and expand their confrontation and step up their struggle. In the proud Palestinian bank, the brave Palestinian strip, Galilee, the Triangle, and Negev all hands unite, the hands of our generations, women, men, children, and old men to write this great continuing epic and give themselves a greater presence of Palestinian struggle and the aims of this struggle.

The Zionist enemy, despite his dense rallies, great military machine, and unlimited use of oppressive and terrorist measures has started to complain openly about the number of injuries inflicted upon his soldiers, officers, members of his begrudging settlers, centers, institutions, cars, and patrols. The uprising is turning into a real war, a real war of independence, whose effects are not only felt on the moral, diplomatic, and political achievements, but which go beyond that to the large amount of developed material and tangible losses which are inflicted on the enemy's soldiers, military forces, economic situation, security and morality, and on its image which has started to deteriorate in the eyes of many people in this world. A greeting to our uprising which is powerfully and vigorously entering its 10th month, a greeting to our generations whose blood and donations are flowing down the path of the continuous uprising and its clear objectives. God's victory is near.

Radio Assails Advocates of Government-in-Exile

JN0509121488 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Sep 88

[From the "They Deceived You and Said" program: "Conditions Are Ripe for the Proclamation of a Government-in-Exile"]

[Text] When the Palestinian resistance movement receded in 1971, Al-Sadat suggested to its leaders the proclamation of a government-in-exile.

When it receded once again following the departure from Beirut in the summer of 1982, there were those who suggested expediting the proclamation of a government-in-exile.

When our entire people in the occupied territory arose and rebelled, some people called for the proclamation of a government-in-exile, imagining the uprising to be a mere spark which they must hurry to benefit from in order to prepare themselves to converge with U.S. plans.

When the step of legal and administrative disengagement between Jordan and the West Bank was made, some people called for making use of the step and proclaiming a government-in-exile. They went further in their deception and alleged that the purpose of such a government is to render the legal and administrative services which used to be extended to our brothers in the West Bank.

The main worry of these people is to run after the U.S. Administration. So much so that we imagined that the aim of the Palestinian national movement has changed from the liberation of Palestine to the U.S. Administration's recognition of the PLO?

Now, what does all that mean?

First, a government-in-exile is not proclaimed when the curve of national progress is declining [as heard], unless its advocates want to completely abandon the cause.

Second, removing the United States from the circle of our nation's enemies and placing it among the neutrals is a strategic error that brings defeat.

Third, the formation of such a government and classifying our principal enemy as a neutral is likely to confuse the fighters and loosen their grip on their guns and await a solution presented to us by our principal enemy in a moment of inspiration.

Well, let these people give up liberation, its slogan and organization, and make way for those who are qualified to shoulder the requirements of liberation and its consequences. If they are so short of breath then there are those who have greater stamina and who are prepared to fight a protracted and bloody battle.

Egypt

U.S. 'Serious Accusations' Against Iraq Noted

NC1209181088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] A Foreign Ministry official source has commented on the criticism exchanged between the United States and Iraq after the U.S. Senate approved the imposition of economic sanctions on Iraq on the pretext that Iraq has used chemical weapons against the Kurds. The source said that such serious accusations against Iraq require clear and cogent evidence.

The source referred to the Turkish ANATOLIA News Agency report that no instances proving the use of these banned weapons by Iraq have appeared and that the information reported on this subject is untrue.

The source added that the current situation requires an expeditious mobilization of efforts by the international community with regard to the basic issue; namely, to achieve a comprehensive and just peace between Iraq and Iran, to reach final solutions to all the points that led to the armed conflict, and to avoid raising such controversial subjects which have no basis.

Papers Denounce Sanctions

NC1309084788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0616 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (MENA)—Cairo newspapers today denounce the unexpected U.S. Senate decision to impose economic sanctions on Iraq for allegedly using chemical weapons against the Kurds. The papers note that this accusation has not been proven by any international investigation.

The AL-AKHBAR newspaper affirms that the fact that this decision has been made at a time when sensitive negotiations are taking place between Iraq and Iran to end a vicious 8-year war raises more than one question about the true intentions behind its timing, particularly as this suspect decision was adopted while Congress was preparing to adjourn prior to the elections.

The paper adds that what is most surprising is that the U.S. Senate has assumed the role of prosecutor and judge without any factual evidence. It even disregarded the testimony of the Government of Turkey, a close U.S. ally, which denied the U.S. accusation which the Senate has used as a pretext for its hostile attitude to Iraq. The paper notes that this accusation has created tension between Baghdad and Washington at a time when the United States is seeking rapprochement with Tehran.

In conclusion, the paper declares that what is ironic about the U.S. stand is that it coincides with the return of thousands of Kurdish exiles to Iraq following the general amnesty recently declared by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

AL-AHRAM newspaper expresses asonishment at the new war which the U.S. Congress has suddenly declared on Iraq on the pretext that Iraq has been using chemical weapons against the Kurds in the north of the country.

In its editorial today, the paper says that Congress has declared war by imposing economic sanctions, committing itself to preventing any aid from reaching Iraq, halting U.S. imports of Iraqi oil, and frustrating any Iraqi attempts to obtain aid. It describes this as a peculiar stance, involving incomprehensible hostile sentiments and producing increasingly bad effects, for two reasons. The first is that Iraq is currently seeking reconstruction following its war with Iran and is waiting, just like Iran, to get international aid in accordance with the commitments incumbent on the international community, foremost among which is the United States. Such aid would contribute to the reconstruction of what the war has damaged.

The paper says that the second reason is that this new war comes at a critical stage in the uncertain peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran after the ostensible end of hostilities between them. The paper points out that the claim made by the U.S. Congress is a controversial one. It has been denied even by Turkey, which lies along Iraq's northern borders and to which some Kurdish groups have escaped to seek refuge. The paper notes that Iraq has declared a general amnesty for these Kurds and urged them to return.

The paper adds that the effect of Zionist influence is apparent in the U.S. Congress position, particularly as this influence sometimes leads U.S. policy astray. The paper asserts that there are fears in Israel and in Zionist circles of the enhancement of Arab power, following the end of the Gulf war, by the addition of Iraqi power. This has led Israel and these circles to attempt to diminish Iraqi prowess.

The paper emphasizes that this attitude is a condemnation of the U.S. Senate, which was not satisfied with merely denouncing an incident of dubious authenticity but went so far as to interfere in the affairs of a sovereign state by imposing extreme and comprehensive sanctions on it. The paper says that at the same time the Senate has not been able to prevent its government from assisting regimes which use the most hideous organized acts of extermination; namely, Israel and South Africa.

Trade Union Scores Ruling

NC1209192288 Cairo MENA in English 1607 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sep 12 (MENA)—The Egyptian Trade Union Federation has expressed denunciation and condemnation for all attempts by the U.S. to pressurize Iraq, especially the Senate's decision to impose economic sanctions on Iraq over unconfirmed allegations on the use by Iraq of chemical weapons.

An ETUF cable to this effect was sent today to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The cable expressed the full support of the Egyptian workers and their strong backing for Iraq's national stances in the face of all bids to offend the country, slight Arab dignity and preclude a comprehensive and just peace between Iraq and Iran.

ETUF, the Egyptian trade union movement, reiterated its inalienable and principled stances favouring the termination of the state of war and the maintenance of peace in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598 in the order of its items.

AL-AKHBAR Criticizes Reagan's Invitation

JN1209173388 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
11 Sep 88 p 5

[Editorial: "Just a Question on the Anticipated Invitation"]

[Text] Why do U.S. Presidents show enthusiasm and interest over finding a solution to the Middle East crisis in the last days and months of their term in the White House, after having spent long years there without thinking about dusting off this problem's files, which were left on the shelves for scores of years?

This question seems difficult to answer. However, it expresses a recurring phenomenon in the terms of many U.S. presidents. We witness an example of that these days in the invitation extended by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres to meet with him in New York during the UN General Assembly session in 2 weeks' time.

Reagan spent about 8 years in the White House and has less than 4 months in office left as President. During this time, the U.S. Administration and the rival parties will be separated by presidential and congressional campaigns. The present President and his administration will become lame ducks with no power or influence to execute any decisions they might make. This is if it has any intentions in this direction.

The question marks are increasing over U.S. President Reagan's invitation to the two foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt to meet him under such circumstances, if we know that the Middle East crisis is one of the cards with which the two rival parties are playing during their big election campaign. There are periodic auctions which take place to win the approval of the Jewish and Zionist groups.

Despite all these considerations, we cannot abandon hope that the U.S. Administration is truly serious in its interest to continue its efforts to reach a just settlement of the Middle East problems, which would bring back peace to this part of the world. We also hope that the meeting between President Reagan and the two foreign ministers will give a real push toward this aim.

Mubarak Discusses IMF, Reforms on Farmers Day

NC0809110288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0902 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at a celebration held in Mit Birah village in Al-Minufiyah Governorate to mark Farmers Day—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Farmers of land and creators of peace: Before I begin my speech, and on behalf of your kinfolk in Egypt, I express our gratitude to the farmers involved in agricultural reform as well as the farmers of Egypt for their role in repaying Egypt's debts.

I have just visited one of your projects, the seed production project. This is a joint Egyptian-U.S. venture. It is a huge achievement which will benefit the Egyptian farmer. I address my thanks for this good project to the United States, which took part in this project, and to our sons and brothers, the farmers and men of the agricultural reform, who built it. [applause, cheers]

Brothers, I greet you all warmly on this happy day. Indeed, it is incumbent on me to greet all the sons of Egypt. All of us belong to the good earth of Egypt. We all belong to the farmers' family which constitutes Egyptian society. The roots of all the sons of the towns, large and small, in Egypt extend to the soil, the village, and the green valley, which is the source of prosperity and blessings. When we talk about righteous morals, noble traditions, and our commitment to the values of manhood and honor, we are all proud to say that we are farmers and sons of farmers. [applause] Therefore, the celebration of Farmers Day is a celebration of the millions of sons of Egypt, without exception.

It is no coincidence that 9 September was chosen to mark this national day. On Friday, 9 September 1881, 'Urabi, the Egyptian farmer and leader, adopted his historic noble stand. [applause] This farmer confronted Egypt's khedive in 'Abidin Square to utter his glorious cry which is still unforgettable, despite the passage of time: God created us free and did not create us to be property. [applause]

On 9 September 1952 an agricultural reform law was introduced. The Army's movement then became known as the 23 July revolution. The agricultural reform was tantamount to radical social change, representing a revolution of right and justice, with all the revolution's meanings and goals. Therefore this is freedom day: freedom for the man who was born free and has the right to live and work, free from all forms of slavery and exploitation. The Egyptian farmer throughout Egypt's history, which dates back to the first civilization known to mankind for thousands of years, represents a magnificent amalgamation of genuine values which have been the pillars of Egyptian society.

The Egyptian farmer represents the values of genuine loyalty to the land and the soil, as if his entity were intermingled with the soil. He is a defender of every single inch of the land, considering this land his fort, repository, and elixir. This loyalty to land is loyalty to the homeland. There is no homeland without land, and there is no land offering welfare and a living without a man to attend to it. [applause]

The Egyptian farmer represents the values of belief in God, a unified and cohesive family, and steadfastness against adversities, no matter how great the sacrifice. He has suffered from repression throughout history. His potential was exhausted by oppression. He faced all forces of oppression with a strong nationalist will. Any one of us can look into the pages of the Egyptian peasant's history and know who besieged the canal, stood against the invaders, and played an integral role in the 'Urabi revolution and the 1919 revolution.

The Egyptian farmers did not hesitate to offer martyrs at any battle Egypt has waged for liberation or construction. Tens of thousands of farmers died of starvation, thirst, and disease with the digging of the Suez Canal, which began on 25 April 1859. This fact is registered in history books. Some 12,000 farmers were martyred during the digging of the Al-Mahmudiyah irrigation canal, which took 10 months. They were buried along the banks of the canal, under mounds of earth. The Egyptian farmers resisted the French occupation. The commanders of Napoleon Bonaparte's army admitted in their memoirs that the Egyptian farmers were in the forefront of the liberation battles. A French commander wrote: Given the farmers' resistance, burning down the villages and killing by the thousands was pointless. [applause] Another commander wrote that 500 workers from one farm were martyred in one battle. The history of the French expedition states that 7,000 armed farmers took part in one battle in defiance of the French troops under Bonaparte. [applause]

The history of the nationalist struggle during the 1919 revolution records the great sacrifices the Egyptian farmers in various areas offered in defiance of the British colonization. [applause] This defiance exposed them to campaigns of annihilation and death sentences. Their determination, however, was not sapped, and they continued their struggle until their revolution succeeded, which was the fruit of the struggle of all segments of the Egyptian people.

All the noble and deeply rooted values that the Egyptian farmers represent were not in vain. They were the motivating forces behind all historic transformations aimed at justice and freedom. The Egyptian farmers are today the masters of their will and owners of their land. They live in their homeland as owners and workers, holding their heads high and enjoying their dignity and all human rights. [applause]

Brothers, these are my reminiscences on the occasion of Farmers Day. I must express them. I thank God that it has been my good fortune to distribute 93,000 title deeds to the agrarian reform farmers today. [cheers and applause] The number of those who have benefited from the agrarian reform reached 420,195 today. They enjoy all the rights endowed by the Social Justice Society in the fields of health, education, and various services. The peasant masses are now represented in various democratic establishments, such as cooperative societies, local councils, and the People's Assembly. This is Egypt's new society. [cheers and applause]

I will now answer some question posed by you, the sons of our brother farmers. The first question concerns a domestic issue. The question reads: The state reformed 153,000 feddans of land last year. The public sector reformed 60 percent of this area. Why are the young sons of farmers not given priority in the distribution of these reformed lands? The truth is that these youths have priority in all these reformed lands. However, as I said before, most Egyptian youths are sons of farmers. Therefore, we will distribute all these reformed lands in accordance with certain criteria and certain controls among the young sons of farmers and graduates of university or nonvocational schools. [cheers and applause]

Another question reads: What is the reason for the delay in the issuance of the law pertaining to the unification of efforts for the supervision of the state-owned desert fallow lands and the facilitation of their distribution to the citizens? The government will discuss this law during the next session of the People's Assembly, God willing.

Here is another question: Why has the cooperatives law not yet been amended to permit cooperative societies to embark on major productive projects? The state also plans to discuss this law during the next People's Assembly session.

I have another question, which reads: What is the reason for limiting loans in the fields of production, particularly agricultural production? I would like to say that the limit of credit facilities for agricultural production was raised last week. We are gradually applying this to other fields.

With regard to subsidized loans, as you know, the Treasury pays the difference. The Treasury cannot pay all the difference with regard to such loans, whether for agriculture or otherwise. The budget cannot bear such a process, particularly a budget with a big deficit.

There is another question concerning agricultural mechanization which says that such mechanization is essential and that farmers cannot find what they need in terms of agricultural tools and machines in the market because of high prices. In this connection I will ask the government to find a solution by reducing customs on imported equipment used in the sphere of agricultural mechanization.

Our cotton growing brothers have raised the following question: Why don't you increase the price of a kantar of cotton by 200 [Egyptian] pounds to encourage us? I will tell you why. If we approved such an increase, which is approximately 35 percent, you would then pay double for the manufactured good which you would buy in the market. You will receive 200 pounds for a ton, but, as a result, you will pay 4 or 6 pounds for the vest which you now purchase for 2 pounds. This is a very important point. The price will be high, and we, as a cotton exporting country, will not be able to compete in the world. The result will be that our cotton will not be sold; there will be no market for our cotton. We cannot use all the cotton we produce in industry. We export to buy wheat and other necessities both for the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Someone sent me a question, asking: What is the story about the IMF? What is the story? We hear a great deal about the IMF and the talks with it. The IMF is an international fund which gives a certificate confirming that the economy in any country is sound. Thus, when we seek loans, the banks will approve them for us. But there is a defect, a big defect in this process. The IMF acts like someone in the rural areas in the past who made himself a wiseman—a doctor. He is not a doctor or anything. A patient, for example, needs a treatment for 1 month. Instead of this doctor's telling the patient to take this medicine daily for 1 month, he tells him to take all the medicine today and tomorrow and that he will recover the day after. Of course, he will take the medicine to go to sleep at night and will not wake up in the morning. He dies. This is the IMF. It writes a prescription for those who require prolonged treatment, just as for those who require short treatment. It says increase the price of electricity by 45 percent, increase this, I don't know what, by 80 percent. If I did this, we would all die. It is true that we need economic reform; we are reforming our economy. For example, we purchase a power station, like the one in Shubra al-Khaymah and Abu Qir, for approximately 2.5 billion pounds today. We could purchase such a station in the past for around 300, 400, or 500 million pounds. Today, it costs 2.4 billion. In order to purchase power stations at such huge prices, no one will agree to give me a loan. They will say how are you going to repay the loan. Your electricity price is cheap; there is no revenue from it to repay the loan. No, I will not give you a loan, because you will not be able to repay it. He is right, from a certain point of view. I tell the IMF that economic reform should proceed according to the social and economic situation in the state and according to the people's standard of living. One should not come and say increase the price by 40 percent. Surely, no one will be able to live. This will not be an IMF process; it will be a slaughter. No state can accept such a system, and many states have criticized it. We do not want to get into this. We are discussing with the IMF economic reform consistent with our social conditions as a state which has a certain lifestyle.

I will answer your other questions on foreign policy. Listen, because this question is of interest to you. The question asks: Egypt and its president have displayed self-control and patience toward Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's hysterical remarks. However, some reports, which speak of a Libyan-Sudanese unity project, have been accompanied by an escalation of the Libyan propaganda campaign against Egypt. What is our position?

Just listen. I will explain the situation to you. The colonel has a big mouth and is ill-mannered. [applause] I want to say something: I will not engage in vituperations nor will I comment on the colonel with the same filthy words he uses. Heads of state should not utter such words. He does not even deserve a response from me.

What are the reasons for his hysteria? He wants to open the border between our two countries. I ask: Why do you want to open the borders? You curse us every day, attack us every day, act in an ill-mannered way every day, and yet we are patient. But let him listen to me now: There is a limit to patience. There is a limit to patience. [applause]

Whenever he takes a beating, he says it is an Egyptian-American-Israeli plan. He inserts the name of any state he does not like.

We tell him: No. We are not thinking about striking Libya because we do not want to kill the Libyan people. We will never carry out such an act because of one person like you. However, I tell him: Shame on you. You should learn good manners and you should not insult Egypt, its people, or president. We will not answer you in the same style.

He wants to open the borders so that the Libyan people can let off steam. No, you keep the Libyan people there, and you keep the pressure on them. The Libyan people will inevitably adopt a stand toward this big-mouthed liar.

As for Sudanese-Libyan unity, it resembles a firecracker. Actually, I do not understand it. I do not understand the story behind it. Is there something behind it? It seems that there is nothing behind it. I hope that Sudan will remain Sudan and that it will remain cohesive. Despite all this and despite Libya's hostility toward Egypt, we have not criticized Sudan like we did previously. We will continue to support Sudan in its current ordeal. [applause] We will continue to ask all the states of the world, East and West, to help Sudan in its current crisis and not to pay attention to the so-called pseudo-unity or anything else.

Another question asks: What are the effects of the drought in some parts of the United States? Very good, we have started inquiring about the drought in the United States. Our awareness is good now. We import wheat from the United States. You know that the price of an imported ton of wheat was approximately $72 dollars last year. Now however, the price of an imported ton of wheat is $171. What a big increase in price. The budget bears this increase. We did not take this into account. The price of a ton of wheat is expected to reach over $200. Now you know how big the burden is just to provide bread.

I have an opinion. It just occurred to me now as I was talking. I hope that no one will take this as a change of policy.

I say that a special bread, called Al-Taba'i bread, is currently being sold in Cairo. Any passerby can see people standing in queues to buy this bread. This bread is made from subsidized wheat, from which a 2-piaster loaf of bread is made. They take this wheat and sell it as bread at 10 and 15 piasters and pocket the difference.

In every Cairo quarter where this bread is purchased, why should we not allow one bakery to make and sell Al-Taba'i bread at half the current market price. Naturally, the vendors of Al-Taba'i bread will not like this because they are making money. This does not mean that we would stop making the 2-piaster loaf of bread. I say in Cairo because Cairo is a swallower. It eats. If you bring it 1 million loaves of bread every day, it will consume them. The discharge of the sewers will increase.

It seems to met that the government can study this subject. In some quarters which buy this Al-Taba'i bread, let one bakery make it. Instead of 10 or 15 piasters, we will set its price of 5 or 6 piasters. We will sell it at half the current price so that we will close this market, because this is a subsidy for the citizens, which enters the pocket of people who do not deserve it.

The drought in the United States will, of course, mean that the crop will diminish, wheat and maize prices will increase, and a series of other price increases will occur regardless of us. The price of wheat, which has already jumped to $171, will exceed $200. The price of maize has increased from $92 to $140. This will necessarily affect animal and poultry fodder. Therefore, I have instructed the prime minister to calculate the real cost of poultry and egg production at these prices and add a considerable profit margin, and to grant suppliers a degree of freedom. I want all the farms which have stopped production to work again. Egypt used to produce 4 billion eggs. This has dropped to 2 billion. Egg- and poultry-producing countries, like America and others, will be pleased with this fall in egg production. They will want to export eggs to us at low prices, but they want hard currency. The price of sugar has risen from $214 to $315. There is a series of price increases as a result of the drought.

Someone is asking how the Iraq-Iran negotiations are going. After 8 years of war, nobody can expect negotiations to end within a week or two, or even a month. Our negotiations with Israel took many months. The matter was complicated. However, I expect some flexibility on Iran's side, because Iraq is demanding peace and seeking its rights, nothing more. It does not wish to occupy Iran's territories. We call on Iran to show the necessary flexibility, so that peace can prevail in the region.

Another questioner says that the reestablishment of official ties with most Arab countries was the most important achievement in the recent stage and asks what stand has been taken on Egypt's return to its place in the Arab League so that it may support the league. Well, do not bother yourselves with the Arab League. The Arab League is in Tunis and we wish it luck. I am not so concerned about this issue because I do not like to beg from anyone.

There is a question which interests every Egyptian citizen living on Egyptian soil, because a citizen is concerned about his own country. The question relates to what has been achieved regarding the reestablishment of Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah through arbitration, and whether there are any attempts to resolve the issue outside the framework of arbitration. You know that the arbitration is almost over and that the verdict will be announced at a press conference in Geneva late this month, God willing. We are after our rights, nothing more. God willing, Tabah will return to mother Egypt according to an arbitration ruling.

I will talk about certain points which interest us all as citizens. Some people are talking about price increases. I agree with them that prices have increased. You want to increase the price of certain products here, and people in the cities are complaining of price increases. If we increase cotton prices, this price will triple before the cotton is sold to your sons in Cairo. I agree with you that certain prices have increased. However, as I said in previous speeches, popular support is indispensable. On this occasion, I greet the Housewives Association in the Al-Ma'adi district, which is fighting exorbitant prices. I wish every one of you would try to form an association in your town to impose its will through boycotting commodities which merchants are selling at exaggerated prices. I do not mean all merchants in Egypt, but there is a minority which overdoes prices in a painful manner. I commend the Al-Ma'adi Housewives Association because it has taken a certain measure and insisted on it, and because it is anxious to continue on this course to bring down unnecessarily high prices.

Of course, the government is in the process of taking certain measures to receive the products cultivated in the fields or in the farming areas directly in order to avoid middlemen and to expand distribution outlets. This is not a common problem in the countryside because it is easy to buy from the field. It is common in Cairo. Cairo is the problem. The merchant travels to purchase the product for 10 piasters and then sells it to you for 90 piasters or 1 pound. The difference goes into his pocket. The government and the Ministry of Supplies must reach the producer to buy from him directly, eliminate the middleman, and sell the product at a reasonable price in cooperative societies or in other distribution outlets.

There is another issue. Certain papers are always talking about corruption as though corruption exists in Egypt alone. We are against corruption under all circumstances. Everyone must know that. We do not cover up any corruption. All cases related to corruption are handled by the state. However, do you want a society of angels in which noboby errs? As long as there are humans, there is corruption. Come and see corruption in the entire world, in the major states. In America there is corruption in the Pentagon. There are corruption cases in the Soviet Union. Corruption exists throughout Europe and in all the mighty countries. Of course this does not justify corruption in our country. I am just telling you that it is a phenomenon as long as there are humans, movement, and life. Yet, we resist corruption, and we absolutely do not protect it.

If we want this country to live and produce, and if we want tourists to visit and industry and agriculture to flourish, there must be stability. We are acting and the state is working as diligently as possible to establish stability and security. However, we need the help of all the citizens because their lives depend upon stability in the country. Without stability, no tourist will come to spend hard currency. Without stability, no one, not even an Egyptian, will put his money in a project in search of a profit. Stability is necessary for development, production, and for providing employment to our graduates. This is a very important point. Every citizen living on Egyptian soil must report to the authorities whenever he notices any suspect act, or persons committing a crime which would shake stability. Instability will harm us all in the end. Every visitor will depart our country, and those who possess money will not come to us. Even the Egyptian who has money will not bring it in because you all know that capital is a coward. If he feels that his money may be lost, he will not bring it in.

Brother citizens: We still have a long way to go in reforming Egypt's economy. This generation shoulders a big burden. We bear and must bear it for the sake of our childrens' future. Our economy was very bad, but is now improving gradually. We bear and will continue to bear it until we reach a prosperous economic state. This process takes time, but we have passed the bottleneck.

Brother citizens, you know it is not my custom to pave the way with flowers to deceive the spectators. It is not my way to hide a fact which the people must know regarding our economic course, irrespective of how difficult it may be. My talk to you about the hardships and obstacles is a sincere way of addressing reality. It expresses a sincere desire to give the citizens the true picture, without false hopes and deceit, attractive promises, and without distortion of the facts or disregard for the problems of the great majority of this people. My unceasing and continuing call on every Egyptian man and woman is to redouble the effort and to devotedly participate in the battle of construction.

The vistas of building are wide for all those who want to build. We are not one of those who place masks on the peoples' eyes so that they see only darkness. The opportunities for development exist. We do not appreciate laziness, nor do we like to throw the burdens onto the shoulders of others. My talks to you always are designed to ring the bells to awaken us so that we will proceed on the road, aware of the hardships involved. We are fully prepared to overcome the most difficult obstacles with determination, patience, and the ability to endure hardships and, most importantly, with confidence in ourselves that we will succeed. There is no problem without solution. Absolutely not. Every problem has a solution. There is no permanent difficulty as long as we possess the will and faith and as long as we are armed with the spirit of brotherhood.

An individual who isolates himself from his society, and imagines that his personal profit and the achievement of his selfish interests will be sufficient for him to dispense with this society, should realize that society will cast him out of the march of progress. Society is able to corner and smother him, because the masses are aware and can make a distinction between good and bad, deception and truth, and those who carry out the trust and those who neglect their duty. We are one family, and the family tie is stronger than any contract. We are a cohesive unit, all in the same boat. Anyone who deviates from the hopes of this society for justice, prosperity, and unity will be the loser in the end, even if he is deceived by false profit.

Every citizen in Egypt in any major or minor position has the responsibility to participate and cooperate in the spirit of collectiveness. We have accomplished in 7 years what some had estimated would take a much longer period of time. We were able to establish a major, firm base for our economic and social development. The peasant, industrial worker, engineer, physician, university professor, agricultural, industrial, and administrative experts, all participated in realizing the achievements, which deserved the appreciation and respect of all the international institutions dealing with us. All this took place in difficult economic circumstances. We also faced obstructive foreign factors in which no one willingly had a hand. But the wheel is moving and progress is continuing, because the workers in Egypt are the champions of victory, not defeat; they are the vanguards of building, not the remnants who seek destruction. They are men who have entered manhood and who willingly sacrifice.

There is a difference between a situation in which we suffer while we simultaneously advance with all our strength toward the goal and a situation in which we content ourselves with complaints and fail to proceed toward the goal. There is a big difference. Work overcomes suffering. Confidence in our abilities will unleash all energies. Promoting the calls of despair characterizes insignificant people who do not want to rise to the level of responsibility. The irresponsible voices which fan emotions and promote retreat and defeat will echo in the ears of those who make them. Those who work and produce will only hear the calls for work and hope. The workers are the vanguards of the awakening, the builders of the renaissance. The workers are the fighters in this battle. The workers on the land and in the factory constitute the storming battalion in this fight. We thank God that they are working in the spirit of affiliation, in faith in victory, and in complete confidence of a better present and a future which will protect their children and their grandchildren.

The times of hardship will not endure as long as we work and sacrifice. The complaints will not become high pitched as long as we face up to our problems with the will to succeed. Our course of progress in all fields in bedecked with triumph, despite the ferocity of the battle.

Our struggle is that of those who love life and want life to triumph. Life shines when we hold its torch up high. Life is full of promise for those who march ahead. Those who want to extinguish the bright lights are choosing for themselves, more than for others, a life of darkness. Those who listen to the calls of despair are choosing for themselves, more than for others, a life of mourning in the shadow of the ruins.

We have chosen a life which is filled with light, with development, and with construction, and God will not foresake us.

Brothers and sisters: All I want to tell you are simple words from the heart of my hearts: Stand together, close ranks, move ahead, and do well, cooperate in charity, excel in piety, keep moving forward; keep your heads erect and your hearts filled with courage, love, and fraternity.

The march will not come to a halt. The forces of evil and falsehood will not drag us backwards. We are the makers of our lives, with God's blessing. There is no place among us for the enemies of life. I pray to God Almighty, the omnipotent and omniscient, to help us on the path of goodness, charity, piety. I pray to God Almighty to strengthen our respect for human rights. May God listen to our prayers. God bless you. Peace and God's mercy be on you. [applause]

Mubarak Receives Omani Adviser 12 Sep

NC1209125088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received 'Umar al-Zawawi, adviser to Sultan Qabus of Oman, at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today. Al-Zawawi arrived in Cairo 2 days ago.

Bolivian Minister on Talks With Mubarak, Others

NC1209130088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1106 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has described his meeting today with President Husni Mubarak as "very friendly and fruitful." He added that he had conveyed to President Mubarak the greetings and appreciation of Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro. The Bolivian minister noted that Egypt is a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement.

Speaking to reporters after his audience with President Mubarak, the Bolivian foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the development of his country's relations with Egypt. He said he is happy that President Mubarak received him today.

On his talks with senior Egyptian officials, the minister said that they dealt with Middle East developments, the situation in Central America, bilateral relations, and prospects for promoting future cooperation between the two countries, particularly in technical and agricultural matters.

The Bolivian minister said that he and Egyptian officials discussed the prospects for forming a joint standing committee to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all domains.

The Bolivian foreign minister also noted that he discussed the joint communique on his visit to Cairo which will be signed tomorrow.

Joint Communique Issued

NC1209184188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Egypt and Bolivia have stressed that comprehensive peace in the Middle East can only be achieved through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. This came in a joint communique which Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal signed tonight.

In this communique, Egypt and Bolivia underlined their complete adherence to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and pledged to cooperate in preserving the vitality of these principles as well as in the discussions concerning Third World problems, chief of which is the external debt problem. The two countries also expressed their will to work together toward boosting the South-South dialogue and toward closer African-Latin American cooperation.

The two sides agreed to set up a joint committee which will meet periodically to follow up the policies of cooperation and coordination between Egypt and Bolivia in all fields.

Following the conclusion of the talks, Dr Butrus Ghali commended the strong ties between the two countries and termed the talks constructive and fruitful. Ghali said that the talks will help promote and strengthen ties between the two countries in the future.

Ceausescu Presents Mideast Initiative to Mubarak

JN1209175588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Sep 88 p 21

[Excerpt] Cairo, Tel Aviv—AL-ITTIHAD and News Agencies—While informed U.S. sources are expecting the foreign ministers of Egypt, the United States, and Israel to seek, during their scheduled tripartite meeting this month, to pave the way for a settlement that takes the form of autonomy in the occupied teritories, as reported by the Israeli newspaper DAVAR, informed political sources in Cairo told AL-ITTIHAD that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu presented Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, during their meeting in Cairo on Friday, a Romanian initiative aimed at calming the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The sources said that the initiative calls for a Palestinian endeavor to benefit from the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, after the Palestinians have proven to all countries of the world how rightful they are in expressing themselves as a people with a right to a homeland that expresses their legitimate national rights. The initiative defined basic points, the most important of which are:

—Palestinian formulation of legitimate demands in the occupied Arab territories.

—Consultations between the PLO and both Egypt and Jordan on this formulation.

—This step to be followed by Egyptian-Romanian-Israeli talks aimed at reaching points of agreement regarding these legitimate demands. This should be followed by direct Egyptian-Palestinian contacts.

Ceausescu explained to Mubarak that investing on the uprising must be done within the framework of emphasizing Palestinian rights in return for calming the situation in the occupied Arab territories in the interest of Israel. This step should precede the convening of an international peace conference and peace procedures in the region. [passage omitted]

Morocco's Filali Departs Cairo 12 Sep

NC1209191988 Cairo MENA in English 1604 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 12—(MENA)—Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali left here today at the end of a two-day visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

He also had talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on the situation in the Arab area and the outcome of the recent Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers Conference which was held in Nicosia.

PRC Family Planning Minister Arrives 12 Sep

NC1209203588 Cairo MENA in English 1600 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sep. 12 (MENA)—Chinese Minister of Family Planning Mrs. Peng Peiyun arrived here today at the head of a delegation on a week-long visit during which she will be received by Speaker of Shura Council Dr. 'Ali Lutfi, Minister of Health Dr. Raghib Duwaydar and Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs Dr. Amal 'Uthman.

In an arrival statement, the Chinese minister said that her visit aims at discussing issues related to population growth and family planning.

Nigerian Presidential Envoy Arrives With Message

NC1309043288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Ambassador Kasuri, director of the African Department in the Nigerian Foreign Ministry and personal envoy of Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, arrived in Cairo from Lagos this evening.

In an arrival statement, the Nigerian ambassador said that he has brought with him a message from the Nigerian president for President Husni Mubarak.

He said that during his visit he will meet with senior Foreign Ministry officials within the framework of the constant consultations and exchange of views between the two countries on problems concerning the African Continent and on the issues of mutual interest.

The Nigerian ambassador was received at the airport by Nabil al-Silawi, director of the African Department in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, and the Nigerian ambassador in Cairo.

Ghanaian Minister Arrives in Cairo 12 Sep

NC1309063088 Cairo MENA in English 2102 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 12 (MENA)—The justice minister of Ghana arrived here tonight for a few days' visit. On hand to receive him was Ghana's ambassador to Egypt.

Rwandan Official on Meeting With Mubarak

NC1209151088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—[Bonaventure] Habimana, Rwandan vice president and secretary general of Rwanda's National Revolutionary Movement for Development, said after meeting with President Husni Mubarak today that they had reviewed aspects of cooperation between the two countries in various fields. He also expressed his appreciation of the developing bilateral relations, adding that they had discussed cooperation between the Rwandan ruling party and Egypt's NDP.

The Rwandan vice president pointed out that they had agreed on the need to conclude a cooperation accord between the two parties, designating areas of cooperation between them. He noted that he will submit the NDP'S draft agreement to the Rwandan ruling party's Central Committee and Foreign Relations Committee for approval. He remarked that the agreement is expected to be signed soon.

Minister 'Ubayd Returns From FRG, Switzerland

NC1209204288 Cairo MENA in English 2007 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 12 (MENA)—Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for administrative development and cabinet affairs, returned here tonight at the end of a six-day visit to West Germany and Switzerland.

Speaking upon arrival, Dr 'Ubayd said he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the Middle East situation and the Egyptian talks with International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said he discussed with the chancellery affairs minister the serious and constructive Egyptian economic reform steps.

Dr 'Ubayd said he concluded several agreements concerning West German participation in environment protection in Egypt.

He said he took part in Switzerland in a meeting on issues of economic reform in the Soviet Union. Reporting aides of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as having explained economic reform in detail, Dr 'Ubayd said the meeting, which was attended by representatives of several states, was the first of its kind to discuss this issue outside the Soviet Union.

On coming Egypt-IMF talks, he said they would be determined after the West German September 21 meeting of the IMF's General Assembly.

Western Desert Tribes Denounce Al-Qadhdhafi

NC1009144588 Cairo MENA in English 1416 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Marsa Matruh, Sept. 10 (MENA)—The tribes of Awlad 'Ali in the Western Desert today lashed at Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for his slanders against the Egyptian people and its leadership and expressed full support for President Husni Mubarak.

During a meeting held today between members of the tribes and head of the Foreign Relations Committee at the People's Assembly Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, they further underlined that they were the guards of Egypt's western gate and said that they refused to have the frontiers opened between Egypt and Libya so long as Libya was led by Al-Qadhdhafi.

Dr. 'Abdallah also received a group of the Libyans living here, who also denounced Al-Qadhdhafi's recent behaviour regarding Egypt.

Alleged Plot To Kill Foreign Diplomat Foiled

PM1209144188 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Sep 88 pp 1-2

[Tariq Isma'il report: "Attempt To Assassinate Foreign Diplomat Foiled"]

[Text] A senior security source has told AL-SHA'B that a high-level security quarter last week foiled a sabotage attempt which was expected to be carried out by a group of agents working for a state hostile to the Egyptian people. The source confirmed that some time ago that quarter received information from abroad that the group was preparing to carry out a major sabotage operation inside Egypt with the aim of assassinating a high-level foreign diplomatic figure with a view to hampering efforts aimed at resolving the Palestinian problem, namely by raising accusations against some Palestinian elements, thus diverting attention from events now taking place inside the occupied territories.

Libya

People's Congress Assails U.S.-Egyptian Maneuvers

LD1209154188 Tripoli JANA in English 1438 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The standing secretariat of the General People's Congress has denounced the ongoing joint U.S.-Egyptian manoeuvres in the Egyptian territorial waters, space and land.

In its statement, the above secretariat has pointed out the ruling regime in Egypt is going too far in exposing pan- Arab security to danger and the plunder of Egyptian soil to the hostile forces, viz., the U.S. imperialism and Zionism thereby making Egypt an arena for conducting aggressive operations against the Arab homeland in a bid to enable the Zionist enemy to forcibly impose its hegemony upon the Arab nation and wreck the people's revolution led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine.

The Secretariat has noted that the preparation for these manoeuvres has been accompanied by a political information campaign against the progressive pan-Arabist forces in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab homeland, apart from an information campaign against the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, its masses and the leader of the revolution to appease the masters of the Egyptian regime from among the American, the Zionists, and their reactionary puppets.

The statement stresses that the Egyptian regime has bypassed the feelings of the patriotic forces and the Arab people in Egypt and has gone too far in making Egypt vulnerable to danger, apart from what it has done at all levels to impose the policy of the Stable of David aiming at generalizing it in the Arab homeland, let alone the sell-out of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and the wrecking of the will of the Egyptian Arab people in a bid to isolate it from its Arab brothers in the pan-Arab struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The statement asserts that the Egyptian regime has deliberately forgotten the lessons of history and both the struggle lof the Egyptian Arab people and the resistance of this people of all types of dependency, occupation to get rid of the traitors.

The statement expresses the conviction that this proud people will certainly rise up and eliminate the turncoats—the cliques of treachery. This people will redeem assuming its historic role despite the passage of time on the oppression of the despots.

The statement has stressed that this standing secretariat stands alongside all the progressive pan-Arabist Egyptian forces to bring Egypt back to its correct status, its practical and active solidarity with the Egyptian Arab people and its progressive pan-Arabist forces in the struggle against the imperialist interventions and the Zionist presence.

This secretariat has called upon all the progressive forces in Egypt and throughout the Arab homeland to condemn the U.S. military manoeuvres and to face up to this traitorous act by the Egyptian regime through a people's action ridding Egypt and the Arab nation of this insult and flagrant interference in its affairs and sovereignty.

Morocco

Hassan Sends Saudi Arabia's Fahd Cable on Sahara

LD1209154688 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Rabat, Sept 12 (MAP)—King Hassan II sent custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, a cable of thanks in reply to the Saudi sovereign's cable related to the ongoing peace process in the Sahara.

"The ties of race and creed binding the brotherly Algerian and Moroccan peoples and our common attachment to the values and precepts of our sacred religion have undoubtedly greatly contributed to the rapprochment between our two countries," King Hassan II stated.

"However, all these elements, whatever their importance, could not have entailed so happy effects without your clearsightedness and wisdom, and without the sustained and brotherly efforts you made to overcome all the obstacles strewn over the path of understanding and concord," the sovereign pointed out.

The Saudi sovereign had expressed in his cable "deep joy" at the peace project for settling the Sahara issues.

Sudan

Rebels To Down All Aircraft Over Waat

EA1209144488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Reports from Malakal say the government is trying to reinforce its besiged forces around Waat by using helicopters to deliver food and troops. In this connection, the SPLA commander in the area has ordered SPLA defense units around Waat to be on maximum alert and shoot down all aircraft, both civilian and military.

Armed Forces Attack Rebels, Kill 157

JN1209181888 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Sep (SUNA)—The Armed Forces General Command has announced that it carried out a large- scale attack against rebels in Wankir area in eastern Nasir kiling 157 people and wounding hundreds.

In a communique issued here today, the command said that the rest of the outlaws fled, leaving behind them quantities of arms and ammunition including 2 DShK guns, 50 semi-automatic rifles, 2 B-10 guns, and 4 Kalashnikov rifles, in addition to quantities of various ammunition.

The communique said that four Armed Forces members were killed in the attack.

Sudanese African National Union Leaders Fired

JN1209152288 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Sep (SUNA)—Andrew Wiw, leader of the Sudanese African National Union, issued a press statement yesterday in which he announced that he had fired Lawrence Wuchil and six other members of the party leadership.

He also announced the formation of a new executive committee and the leaders of the regional executive organs of the party in the south.

This came in the newspaper AL-MAYDAN, the mouthpiece of the Sudanese Communist Party, published today.

Papers Commend Endorsement of Alternative Laws

JN1209184288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 12 (SUNA)—The issue of the alternative laws endorsed by the Council of Ministers yesterday to replace the 1983 Islamic laws has received a wide coverage in today's papers first pages and editorials.

By endorsing these laws the government has taken a step forward in honouring its number one commitment to the voters who elected the MPs of the three parties, said independent daily AL-USBU' today under the heading of "the criminal laws a step towards (the nations) will". We have been following the external pressure being excercised on the cabinet not to endorse the bill of these laws but we knew that the Council of Ministers is to realize the will of the nation, the paper AL-USBU' said.

AL-SUDANI daily has pinpointed that by endorsing these laws the government has demonstrated [words indistinct] and that this minimum could be widen to cover other domains.

The paper, though cabled independant has a strong penchant to the Islamic National Front, said these laws show the country breaking away for the first time from the yoke of colonization. It went on to hail the Council of Ministers for endorsing the said laws.

Foreigners in Khartoum To Get 'Special Cards'

JN1209185688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1732 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept. 12, SUNA—Special cards will be issued for aliens and refugees in the national capital while any foreigner who does not possess identity card or official stay document will be expelled out of the country, said director of Aliens' Affairs Office here today.

The director who said the measures will be adopted following census and classification of aliens in the capital urged all to carry their official documents to help ease the process of census now being carried out.

Writer Views Aid, Speaks With Defense Minister

JN1209134088 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Sep 88 p 5

[By Mahmud Murad]

[Text] Despite what has been said and written about the disaster that has stricken Sudan, many questions are still being asked. A little of what has been written is objective description and analysis from an Arab viewpoint. Khartoum has received more than 200 foreign press, radio, and television correspondents since 4 August, when the floods and downpours swept the country. However, the number of Arab correspondents has not exceeded 30. Most of the Arab reporters came on brief tours along with the relief aid from their countries. Thus, the portrait of Sudan before the world continues to be drawn by foreigners and is influenced by the mass media in which the foreign reporters work.

In Khartoum for example, there are 1.5 million displaced citizens as a result of the heavy rains and floods, representing 40 percent of the capital's residents. They are the real sons of Khartoum. Many attempts are being made to shelter those people. However, the foreign correspondents leave all this and go to the green strip. This area is not, as one might think, a strip of trees and plants, but a pile of garbage and dirt, the area where the capital dumps its garbage for burning, as in other cities and countries. It remained so until the refugees came from the regions, resorted to the capital, moved into in this area, and built small wooden sheds. These people work under the sun, beg in the streets, and some of them engage in armed robbery, kidnapping, and rape.

Most of those people came from the south, fleeing the bloody civil war, drought, desertification, and starvation. Some of them came from Darfur and Kordofan during the past 8 years of drought to escape armed robbery, which prevailed as a result of tribal disputes or the infiltration of armed units from Libya or Chad to settle the area and seize its resources. War has no mercy, and the the soldiers who have no supplies or shelter, such as the Chadian opposition forces of Ibn Oumar, who came from Libya and are still in Darfur, created many problems. Some of those residing in the green strip came from the Eastern Region, Ethiopia, and Uganda.

Those are not the victims of downpours and floods. However, the foreign correspondents went to them and asked them if the government had given them anything from the relief aid. They answered that the government prefers to help the Arabs and neglects them because they are black. They say that the government is practicing racial segregation and they are starving. They also tell stories about their emigration from their homelands and say that many of them died from starvation, thirst, and disease. Radio stations and news agencies quickly report this. In their comments, these radios and news agencies do not ask for more aid from the West. The governmental aid from well known Western organizations has not exceeded 10 per cent of what has reached Sudan. They also do not mention the aid from the Arab countries, but they level accusations and distort the portrait.

Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Muhammad Khalil told me: Those are biased persons. They and some in Sudan have ill will. However, Sudan is an open country, as you see. The defense minister mentioned two examples of what had happened:

—The British Embassy sent envoys to the military airport to count the arriving relief planes and get information about their contents and destination. When the airport director contacted me about this, I asked him to order them out because they had no right to do that. They can be there if planes from their country have arrived. To go beyond what is normal, we can allow them to know where and how what is sent is distributed, although when something arrives it becomes Sudanese property and is to be handled by the government. However, we agreed to more than is usually done to avoid rumors.

—Some Western organizations working in the field of humanitarian services asked to bring relief materials. Their condition was that they handle the distribution themselves for whoever they wanted in areas they chose, irrespective of the government's plan, priorities, and true needs.

The defense minister said with extreme emotion: This is an encroachment on domestic sovereignty, which we will never allow.

On the other hand, Gen 'Abd al-Majid Muhammad Khalil praised Egypt's role, which was the first to establish an aid airlift. Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah also phoned him, offering the resources of the Egyptian Armed Forces at Sudan's request. He also praised Saudi Arabia, which sent the largest number of relief planes, and said that Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz had contacted him. He praised the PDRY and Iraq, which extended aid despite the tense relations after the murder of Iraqi opposition leader Mahdi al-Hakim last January.

Gen 'Abd al-Majid added: The lesson Sudan has learned from this ordeal is that the Arab nation is well, strong, and cohesive, despite any differences that might exist. Based on this, and in light of what happened in the disasters of downpours and floods, Sudan will rearrange its orientations and foreign political relations. The minister said: After the crisis calms down, we—he means the cabinet and political leaders—will sit to discuss these orientations and bases.

Gen 'Abd al-Majid Muhammad Khalil is a veteran military man. He was a professional officer for many years and served in the south. He became a chief of staff and then commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister. He became a vice president for Ja'far Numayri until they disagreed; he then left the government. Finally, he was appointed defense minister in the current national accord government. He is a supporter of the Al-Ummah Party headed by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The talk then turned to the Armed Forces and their key role in tackling the disaster of the downpours and floods by virtue of their access to resources for coping with emergencies. Asked about amendments to the Armed Forces act, the minister said: Yes indeed, I have prepared a draft bill for the National Defense Council, which under a 1986 law is chaired by the defense minister. But I found it unreasonable for the council to chart and discuss state strategy without the prime minister. My plan, therefore, calls for him to chair the council. Pending passage of the new law, I will invite the prime minister to chair the meetings.

I said to the defense minister: And what is behind the replacement of Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Faysal Mansur by Lieutenant General Mahdi Babu Nimr? (But I did not point out to him that I know that the new chief of staff is a cousin of the prime minister.)

He said: There is nothing unusual about that. Following the appointment of Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad as general commander of the Armed Forces 4 months ago and after taking stock of the command, he got in touch with me and asked that the chief of staff be replaced. I went along with his request, since the commander is entitled to pick his aides in the interests of more harmonious and smooth relations. There was nothing political in the shakeup.

I asked: What about the military situation in southern Sudan?

He said: You know how far the contacts and mediations undertaken by various sides and above all Egypt have gone, as well as the visits by the delegations of the Sudanese parties (the latest of which was a visit by a delegation of the Democratic Unionist Party led by its assistant secretary general, Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn). That is all useful, although I believe such visits should be within the framework of the government strategy without departing from that strategy by introducing new points. In general, I told the Armed Forces there must not be any complacency, and we must not be duped by peace endeavors. Peace endeavors run parallel to the military line. We in the military continue in our combat and defensive activities. Once there is agreement on a cease-fire, we will implement it in minutes.

[Murad] Is your task in southern Sudan defensive or offensive?

[Khalil] Both, depending on the region in which we are deployed and the circumstances. In our latest operation in August, we attacked a big camp near Waw in the Upper Nile Province, and the losses were heavy. Do not forget that we are not fighting a regular war but an irregular "guerrilla war."

[Murad] I said to the defense minister: What about the situation in Darfur? There is total chaos in that province in western Sudan, with numerous, violent armed lootings. Scores of people are killed, villages burned, and thousands of cattle kidnapped or die. The Chadian opposition forces of Ibn Oumar (1207 armed officers and soldiers), which came to the province from Libya, are perpetrating terrible actions.

The minister said: The government has declared the province "an operations zone." The emergency law allows for such a measure if circumstances require it. Khartoum and the Northern Province were declared disaster areas in accordance with that law. Thus we declared Darfur "an operations zone" where the Armed Forces cooperate with the police to maintain order and arrest outlaws. According to the latest reports, 90 percent of the incidents that used to occur are no longer present.

The latest reports from Darfur say the citizens in the area held a meeting some days ago to discuss the deteriorating situation in their province. They sent a memorandum to the prime minister which says: The situation has become serious and portends serious consequences. The losses that resulted from the lootings (whether by the pro-Libya Chadian forces of Ibn Oumar or from tribal feuds) so far total 3,000 dead; thousands of wounded; and the deaths of more than 20,000 cows, a similar number of goats and sheep, 2,000 horses, and 2,000 camels; and there has been a dearth in planting.

The contacts between the representatives of the government and the Ibn Oumar forces resulted in this: Either the Ibn Oumar forces go to Libya or Chad, or they hand over their weapons while their men remain as refugees. Speaking in the Constituent Assembly, Sadiq al-Mahdi announced that only 457 men handed over their weapons. However, according to information from the province, these men handed over only token weapons and kept with them more effective weapons as well as vehicles and armored cars.

The National Council for the Salvation of Darfur [Al-Majlis al-Qawmi li-Inqadh Darfur] announced that it rejects the government decision to allow these forces to remain in Darfur even if they were to hand over their weapons. The council declared that the government decision on keeping the Ibn Oumar forces in the Umm Kadadah area is contrary to the desire of its inhabitants, and if the forces remain, armed lootings and disturbances will increase and the entire province will be in flames although it needs stability for cultivation and combating locusts.

The minister of defense said to me: We are making every effort. It is important for our efforts to be supported by political and media campaigns and for efforts to continue on the political and popular levels.

Tunisia

Briefs

New Ambassadors

During an official ceremony attended by Mr Hedi Baccouche, President Ben Ali presented credentials appointing the following: Abdelhamid Ammar as Tunisian ambassador to Damascus, (Mohamed Ounji Qabib) as Tunisian ambassador to Amman, Larbi Hantous as Tunisian ambassador to Baghdad, Noureddine (Qamdani) as Tunisian ambassador to Tokyo, Noureddine Boujellabia as Tunisian ambassador to Prague, Mohamed Fourati as Tunisian ambassador to Warsaw, and Mohamed Salah (El Ejri) as Tunisian ambassador to Ottawa. The president also received the credentials of the new Cuban ambassador to Tunisia, Mr Domingo Garcia Rodriguez. [Summary] [*LD0809030788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Sep 88*]

Kuwait

Iraqi Embassy Protests U.S. 'Hostile Stand'

JN1209175288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Sep (INA)—Multitudes of Iraqis, joined by the sons of Arabism in the sisterly State of Kuwait, have denounced the American Knesset's hostile stand against Iraq.

These multitudes crammed the Iraqi Embassy's celebration halls and expressed wrath and indignation over the media clamor that is aimed at undermining the Iraqi victory and gains. They stressed that the people led by Saddam Husayn know only victory as their course and fear nothing regardless of the plots and escalating crimes of the enemy.

ARAB TIMES Calls U.S. Senate 'Zionist Inspired'

JN1209135788 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 11 Sep 88 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "A Vile Campaign"]

[Text] The current American campaign accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons is not in the true sense an American campaign as it is not launched by the U.S. administration.

Rather, it was launched by the U.S. Senate—the same Senate which calls for punishing any Arab believed to have caused harm to Israel. Thus, it is clear that the campaign against Iraq is not exactly a U.S. campaign, but a Zionist inspired one.

Simply said, Israel and its cronies were obviously very saddened after the Iran-Iraq war ended with an Iraqi victory. This scenario goes against the wishes of Israel and its allies in the region.

U.S. senators who demanded stopping of all aid and loans to Iraq during its eight years of war, are well aware that Iraq did not need a single cent from U.S. banks. On the contrary, the U.S. sold Iraq arms for cash and at very inflated prices. Iraqis had no alternative but to pay because they needed these arms to defend their homeland.

However, let U.S. senators realise that Iraq will not need to borrow. Suffice it to say that the Iraqi President has only to declare his country open to Arab investments—and Arab funds will flow into Iraq, these Arab funds, which have been battered by the American game with the dollar exchange rates—increasing and decreasing the exchange rate of the dollar to suit American interests, and these Arab funds which U.S. banks lend to others will certainly be channeled to victorious Iraq. Iraq has many good and profitable investment opportunities in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Because of all these factors, we would like to inform the senators that Iraq in advance agrees to the U.S. banks' boycott for providing loans to Iraq, simply because in the final analysis these banks and not Iraq will be the losers.

At this juncture, we would like to call the attention of any senator who demanded a stop to loans to Iraq to first query U.S. banks if they have any loans due from Iraq, or if vice-versa is the case—U.S. banks hold Iraqi deposits. It must be remembered that Arab money in U.S. banks is, after all, Iraqi money, especially when Arab unity becomes stronger.

We would like to categorically state that Iraq did not use chemical weapons. Others, who happen to be friends of Israel are the culprits in this respect.

It is to be realised here that the increasing strength of Iraq, which is a friend of Arab nationalism at a time when the Palestinian popular uprising is steadily advancing, coupled with the retreat of Iraq's Arab and foreign opponents, are all disturbing signals for Israel.

Israel is the country behind the campaign against Iraq. Possibly, the world wants to find a dignified solution to Iran's defeat. But Iran does not even require this—as there is no victor or vanquished among Muslims.

Ships Enter Dry Dock After 8 Years of War

LD0809085288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1743 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 7 (KUNA)—Two ships stranded for eight years in southern Iraq Wednesday harboured in the dry dock of Kuwait shipbuilding and repair yard company, a company official said.

The managing director of the company Musa Ja'far Ma'rafi said the Greek cargo ship "Dhimitrios" and the Panamanian container ship "Crescent" arrived here today from Khawr al-Zubayr in southern Iraq.

The ships which have been forced to stay in Khawr al-Zubayr since the eruption of fighting between Iran and Iraq eight years ago will undergo repair works in the drydock.

Ma'rafi said these two ships are the first to enter the dry dock since the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq came into effect last August 20.

Oil Tanker Registration Policy To Continue

LD1209102688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0818 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 12 (KUNA)—Board Chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company 'Abd al-Fatah al-Badir was quoted as saying Monday that the policy of registering tankers in the U.S., the Soviet Union and Britain will continue and will be increased after the end of the Gulf war if it proves to be economically feasible.

Badir said in an interview with AL-WATAN that the issue is under study in accordance with the company's economic interests, adding that the policy of registering tankers with foreign companies is an economic matter not related to the war. He said however, that if the company comes to the conclusion that the policy of registering tankers in foreign countries is a burden on it, this policy would be abandoned.

Answering a question on the shipping situation across the Strait of Hormuz following the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran, Badir said the company's tankers have not been searched after the halt of hostilities between the two countries.

On the impact of the ceasefire on insurance, Badir said international insurance companies have cut down rates from 7 percent to 25 percent and in some cases to 1 percent. He predicted that war hazards insurance would be abolished after progress in the Geneva negotiations between Iran and Iraq.

He also predicted that shipping prices would improve after the reduction in the number of oil tankers after a period of surplus over the past few years.

Oman

Foreign Affairs Minister Leaves for Tehran

JN1009085588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0802 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Muscat, 10 Sep (WAKH)—Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Muscat this morning for Tehran on a visit to Iran.

In a pre-departure statement, he said that he will convey a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman to the Iranian leadership on consultations about issues of common concern, particularly the situation in the Gulf region. The message will be delivered in line with the extensive consultations between the two countries in light of the general trend to restore peace and security in the Gulf region, he added.

On relations between GCC countries and Iran after the end of the war, the Omani minister said in a statement carried by the OMAN NEWS AGENCY that relations between the two sides constitute a cornerstone in the stability of the Gulf region. He pointed out that the current circumstances are the best for promoting bilateral relations between Iran and the GCC countries. He said that there are reciprocal desires in this regard. He said that there are high-level consultations to promote these relations in the interests of peace in the region.

He stressed that Oman is exerting every possible effort to strengthen the relations of good-neighborliness among the states of the region and consolidate stability and peace in the interests of all parties. This, he said, is in line with the firm principles of the policy of His Majesty Sultan Qabus' government, which seeks stability, security, and peace in the region.

Qatar

Protest Memo Handed to U.S. Embassy in Doha

JN1209135288 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, Sept. 12, INA—Arab and Iraqi community in Qatar has strongly denounced the U.S.Senate's bill of imposing economic sanctions against Iraq.

In a protest memo handed over to the American Embassy in Doha, the Arab and Iraqi community deplored the unjust campaign unleashed by media bodies of Zionist circles against Iraq.

The memo stressed that the unjust campaign against Iraq once more indicated unequivocally flagrant hostile stands taken by the U.S.A. against Iraq under Zionist influence, including military and information support extended to the Iranian enemy over years of war.

The memo pointed out that anti-Iraq campaign has come to appease the Zionist entity and to fully back the Zionist lobby in the United States, a lobby infuriated by Iraq's victory over the Iranian regime.

Saudi Arabia

Council Urges OPEC To Cooperate on Oil Prices

LD1209205588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1740 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpts] According to Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir, the custodian of the two holy places, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, chaired the Council of Ministers session this afternoon, Monday, 12 September 1988, at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

At the king's directive, the Council listened to a brief summary of media reports over the last 24 hours on political, security, and economic matters, and on the decrease in oil prices on world markets. The custodian of the two holy places indicated that this is what we have been warning against in alerting all OPEC members and non-members to the necessity of joint cooperation. In this way we will preserve the production ceiling and the quota level and ensure that prices return to normal, conforming with the December 1986 agreement concluded in Geneva and the adopted amendment. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Sha'ir concluded by announcing that the council also ratified the agreement on the exemption from tax and custom duties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Popular and Democratic Republic of Algeria according to the addendum of the agreement. A royal decree will be issued to this effect.

Kingdom Denies Causing Oil Price 'Collapse'

LD1209194788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1848 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Sep, SPA—Recent reports disseminated by some news agencies purport that the reason for the collapse of oil prices is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's rejection of the convening of a meeting of the prices committee. In reply to these reports, His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, told SPA that these allegations are not true because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always been the first to attend any meeting agreed on by OPEC member countries.

King Fahd Receives Message From Algerian Envoy

LD1009201888 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The message was conveyed to the king by Larbi Belkheir, the director of the President's Office, when he was received by the king today.

The meeting was attended by Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers.

Mr Belkheir arrived in Jeddah yesterday morning. He was met at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by Minister Mas'ud and royal protocol officials.

Meets With Iraqi Envoy

LD1109140388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1322 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 11 Sep (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God protect him, has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Iraqi Information and Culture Minister Latif Nasif Jasim when he received him at his office at Al-Salam Palace this afternoon. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Official Views Iraq-Iran Talks, OPEC Policies

JN1109180988 Manama WAKH in English 1516 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, Sept 11 [GNA]—The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States are prepared to support peace talks between Iraq and Iran to ensure their success, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid was quoted as saying today.

Shaykh Khalifah told the Paris-based AL-YAWM AL-SABI' magazine that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan was the first to seek an end to the Gulf war, viewing it as a serious wound sapping the Arab and Muslim body. [passage omitted]

Regarding oil prices, Shaykh Khalifah said price stability depended on OPEC's ability to act on a firm policy of prices and production. "We in the UAE are keen on OPEC unity and market stability," he told the magazine.

He reaffirmed that the UAE OPEC-assigned quota was unfair and does not match the country's vast oil resources. "The UAE has felt that its positive responses to OPEC agreements were not met with similar position," he said. [passage omitted]

Denmark's Ellemann-Jensen Meets Minister

JN1009204888 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 10 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates today urged the European Community to help convene an international peace conference on the Middle East and set up a Palestinian State. UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah discussed the Middle East problem with Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen.

"The UAE urged the EEC to help convene an international peace conference, press Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and set up a Palestinian state on the national Palestinian soil," the Emirates news agency said.

The two sides also discussed the Gulf war ceasefire and expressed optimism over peace between Iraq and Iran. They also hoped that the two Gulf parties would implement all points of the UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The meeting also covered bilateral ties and economic and trade cooperation.

Ellemann-Jensen, who arrived on Wednesday after visits to Kuwait and Qatar, invited 'Abdallah to visit Denmark.

Leaves After 4-Day Visit

JN1209130588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Sep (WAKH)—Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen left Abu Dhabi for home after a 4-day visit to the UAE concluding a tour which also included Kuwait and Qatar. The Danish minister—accompanied by a high-ranking economic and trade delegation—held talks with senior UAE officials on ongoing developments in the Gulf and the Middle East and relations between the two countries particularly in the economic and trade fields.

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister Returns From Damascus Visit

JN0609154988 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, and his delegation returned to Sanaa this afternoon after a 4-day visit to fraternal Syria at the invitation of his brother, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Upon arrival, he was received by Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Planning Organ and Standing Committee member; a number of ministers; members of the Standing Committee; and a number of officials.

Reportage on Criticisms of U.S. Allegations

Hammadi on U.S. 'Campaign'

JN1109132588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] London, 11 Sep (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, has described the U.S. accusation that Iraq is using chemical weapons against the Kurdish rebels as part of a campaign to harm Iraq.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published here today, Hammadi said that the campaign is meant to punish victorious Iraq and prevent positive relations between the Arab countries and the United Strates. He pointed out that Zionism is behind this campaign because it is the only side that is displeased by Iran's defeat. He also warned that some countries' desire to win influence in post-war Iran should not be at the expense of Iraq.

The Iraqi minister vehemently denied Iraq had used chemical weapons and expressed regret over this large-scale campaign and over the U.S. secretary of state's statement that Iraq's continuous use of chemical weapons will affect overall U.S.-Iraqi relations. He explained that the campaign on the use of chemical weapons is a repetition of previous assumptions and a baseless accusation.

Hammadi added that Iraq will study the U.S. decision to impose economic sanctions on Iraq as well as the U.S. position. He described the talk about the use of chemical weapons as serious, urging those who discuss this issue to discuss all cases and remain neutral.

Hammadi added that defending the Kurdish rebels is an old card used by many countries to pressure Iraq and pointed out that the United States also used this card during the shah's reign in Iran.

Regarding Iraq's role in Lebanon after the war, Hammadi affirmed that Iraq's position toward any Arab country is based on noninterference in domestic affairs. He added that Iraq supports any position taken by the PLO, even if it conflicts with Iraq's position.

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Staged

JN1109170588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—A quarter of a million angry male and female Iraqis shouted against the United States in Baghdad late this afternoon and said: Iraq is stronger than its enemies! Disgrace to the American Knesset!

An Iraqi Kurdish woman named Aydin Muhammad Khamis headed the angry masses, who staged denunciation processions through all the streets leading to the swimming pool area where the U.S. Embassy building is located. She posted a copy of a protest memorandum on the embassy door in the name of the quarter million Arab and Kurdish male and female Iraqis taking part in the procession.

In their memorandum, the masses informed the U.S. Embassy of the wrath and indignation of the Iraqis, both Arabs and Kurds, over the disgraceful position adopted by the American Knesset—a position motivated by spite, rancor, and filth against Iraq and the Arab nation. The masses raised thousands of pictures of the symbolic leader Saddam Husayn along with banners, some of which said in Arabic, Kurdish, and English: "We strongly denounce the American Knesset decision to boycott Iraq," "We paid rivers of blood to maintain our independence and we are prepared to pay more," "All the Iraqis are with Saddam until victory," and "We will not allow anyone to reap the fruits of our victory."

The INA correspondents say the angry masses flocked to the procession's starting point like a flood from four different directions, chanting enthusiastically and strongly in Arabic and Kurdish: "Saddam, your name shook America," "America's face is black," "Never forget, O people, that America is against the Arabs," "Disgrace to the American Knesset," and "Your threats will not frighten us, O slaves of world Zionism."

Participants in the tumultuous procession recalled in their shouts and slogans the American-Israeli plot against Iraq which was known as Irangate, in which they supplied the Iranian enemy with weapons to strike at Iraqi children and women in their secure homes.

The march was attended by Sa'di Mahdi Salih and Mazban Khadr Hadi, members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; heads of the popular and vocational organizations; leaders of the Kurdish parties; and large groups of our Kurdish people in their traditional costumes.

Two protest memorandums were presented to the U.S. Embassy by the Revolutionary and Democratic Parties of Kurdistan expressing the Kurdish masses' anger over the evil U.S. draft resolution, as well as their denunciation of the uproar created by the U.S. Senate to harm great Iraq.

The protest memorandum of the Revolutionary Party of Kurdistan, a copy of which was stuck on the door of the U.S. Embassy by Muhammad Rashid al-Jabari, secretary of the Central Committee of the party, says that the measures approved by the U.S. Senate are based on a weak allegation that Iraq used chemical weapons during operations to purge dear Kurdistan region of our Kurdish people's traitors, the agents of foreigners.

The Democratic Party of Kurdistan protest, a copy of which was stuck on the door of the U.S. Embassy by Ahmad 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Atrushi, member of the Political Bureau of the party, stresses that the shameful position taken by the U.S. Senate reflects evil intentions against victorious Iraq and implies false allegations.

In its memorandum, the party said that the Kurds and Iraqis enjoy full rights under autonomy and that they ostracized the agent and traitor, who threw himself in the lap of imperialism, which is hostile to nations, as well as in the lap of anti-Arab Khomeyniites. The memorandum says that the party vigorously condemns the position of the U.S. Senate, which is dominated by world Zionism, the enemy of the people.

The procession participants shouted their slogans: "The Americans were and still are pirates on the ground, at sea, and in the air," and "The Americans led the school of crime against mankind for years and forgot that they support the racist entities in the world."

The INA correspondents say that the first secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad received the protest memorandum presented by the angry masses of Baghdad and the Revolutionary and Democratic Parties of Kurdistan.

The Baghdad masses memo said: The U.S. law expressed a heinous conspiratorial position. It added: At this time in particular, the American Knesset comes out with a heinous conspiratorial position calling for a draft law imposing economic sanctions and withholding peaceful and technical information. Within the framework of these new international plots, the American Knesset instigates other countries to follow its conspiratorial steps, forgetting that their hands were stained with the blood of the earth's nations when they dropped their atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and when they used germ and chemical weapons and toxic gases against the world's nations.

The memorandum pointed out that America supports Zionism in the occupied territories where innocent and defenseless children, women, and elderly have been killed over the past 9 months. The American Knesset's conscience has not been moved to denounce the Zionists' crimes in Palestine. It was not even embarrassed to see people buried alive or hands and legs broken within the sight and hearing of public opinion.

The Baghdad masses memorandum said: Shedding false tears over a handful of stray people who betrayed their homeland and people and threatened peace in the region makes the Americans think that we are unaware of their ties with those traitors whom they supplied with weapons and sheltered when they escaped and received them in the offices of the U.S. State Department.

It added that the Baghdad masses strongly denounce the American Knesset's call for issuing a draft law imposing economic sanctions on Iraq and imposing such a position on other states so that they might adopt a similar position in order to bring conflicts and wars back to the region and threaten the safety and security of the region's peoples. It called on all peace- and freedom-loving forces to stand against the actions of the Knesset warmongers and others. It also called on them to pressure America and its Senate to stop these wicked actions.

Further on Demonstrations

JN1109210588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT
11 Sep 88

[Text] Irbil, Northern Iraq, 11 Sep (INA)—Mammoth demonstrations of protestors roved the Kurdistan autonomous region today during which the region's citizens expressed their indignation at the miserable U.S. position. They also reiterated their rallying around the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. [words indistinct] the U.S. Senate's decision.

The demonstration staged denunciation processions through all the streets in Irbil led by Arab and Kurdish citizens as a symbol of cohesion among the sons of the one people. The two citizens were carrying banners that said: "O slaves of Zionism, your threats will never intimidate us." The citizens carried thousands of pictures of President Saddam Husayn and slogans denouncing the American Knesset decision and its flagrant interference in our domestic affairs.

A mammoth demonstration was also staged in Al-Sulaymaniyah in which the masses expressed wrath and indignation at the disgraceful U.S. position. During the demonstration, which roved through the streets of Al-Sulaymaniyah, the citizens carried thousands of pictures of President Saddam Husayn and banners denouncing the U.S. Senate's decision boycotting Iraq economically.

A similar demonstration was staged in the Dahuk Governorate. The demonstrators denounced the U.S. Senate's decision. The masses shouted with one voice: Arabs and Kurds are together in the battle [words indistinct]. The masses stressed that the Iraqi victory is too strong to be affected by [words indistinct] in the imperialist and Zionist corners.

Official 'Scoffs at' Israeli Offer

JN1109200588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT
11 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi media official has scoffed at Zionist entity Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' announcement that his entity is ready to absorb what he described as 200 Iraqi Kurdish orphans of the victims of the Iraqi Army's use of chemical weapons.

He said that the Zionist entity is responsible for turning the Palestinian children into orphans, and that the Palestinian children's cries and tears have turned into volcanoes and stones to strike the insolent Zionist heads. He added that the day will come when this cancerous tumor will be uprooted and Palestine will return to its legitimate owners under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Iraqi official added that this announcement is part of an unsuccessful psychological war carried out by Zionist circles and in stinking corners of international political lobbies such as the U.S. Senate. He said that the Kurdish children live in Iraq and enjoy its wealth, as do all honest and sincere Iraqis. However, he concluded that the place of traitors is the garbage can of history.

Kurdish Figure on U.S.Position

JN1209152588 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Irbil, North Iraq, Sept. 12, INA—Mr. Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir al-Naqshabandi, chairman of the legislative council of the autonomy-rule area, condemned the American Knesset position against Iraq saying "the bad American position against Iraq is after the Iraqi people, Arab and Kurds".

In a statement to INA, Mr. al-Naqshabandi said U.S. Senate approval of the draft law hostile to Iraq and its justifications are baseless and considered an interference in the internal affairs of an independent country. This position contradicts international laws, norms and ethics, stressing that masses of the Kurdistan autonomous rule area and all Iraqis are aware of the wicked objectives of the campaign waged by Zionist and imperialist circles against triumphant Iraq.

Mr. al-Naqshabandi stressed that the Kurds, enjoying welfare and prosperity under autonomy rule, interpreted their full allegiance and faithfulness to the homeland through their sacrifices in the sacred battle and effective contribution for constructing great Iraq.

Mr. Sirwan al-Jaff, chairman of the executive council of the autonomy-rule area, said the U.S. Senate disgraceful draft law against Iraq clearly confirmed its being the front line of international Zionism and its instrument.

Mr. al-Jaff added that the U.S. Senate had forgotten that time of hegemony on peoples, playing with their destinies and interfering in their affairs had ended once and for all.

He added that people of the autonomy-rule area sternly denounce the position of the U.S. Knesset and falsifications aimed at hurting Iraq and confirmed their position alongside their great people as invulnerable barrier against all conspiring and hostile forces.

Another Kurdish personality, Mr. Hashim 'Aqrawi, secretary of the Central Committee of Kurdistan Democratic Party, said the decisive Iraqi victory has ended once and for all the "hireling card" in the north which Zionist and American imperialism depended on to let passage for its designs against Iraq.

Speaking to INA, Mr. 'Aqrawi said the U.S. Senate position is disgraceful depending on lies that are without foundation. He stressed that sons of the Kurdistan autonomy-rule area fought alongside the rest of our great Iraqi people in the just battle and had had an effective role in defeating the aggressors. "They would remain faithful to the unity of their people and integrity of their homeland under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn", he said.

Egyptian Official's Statement

JN1209182988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (INA)—An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official source has stated that the accusations leveled against Iraq on the pretext of using chemical weapons against the Kurds in the north require clear and conclusive evidence.

In a statement to INA here late this afternoon, the source cited the Turkish ANATOLIA news agency which stated that not a single case indicating Iraq's use of banned weapons was discovered. He said the information reported about this subject is baseless. The source stressed that the current situation requires the quick mobilization of the international community's efforts behind the basic issue of establishing a just and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran by reaching final solutions to all the points that led to the eruption of armed conflict and by refraining from stirring up of such unfounded topics.

Number of Returning Kurds Rises to 13,193

JN1209194088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—The number of Kurds benefitting from the pardon decision issued by the RCC rose to 13,193 by 2000 [1600 GMT] today. Specialized committees received these citizens and rendered health, social, food, and housing services to them.

In statements to an INA team in the autonomous region, the Kurds benefitting from the pardon decision issued by the RCC on 6 September expressed joy over this humanitarian decision enabling them to return to the national ranks and take part in the construction of Iraq. The INA team said other Kurds are currently returning to the homeland via border posts in response to the RCC pardon decision.

'Full' Ministerial Negotiations in Geneva

JN1209144688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1417 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 12 Sep (INA)—It was announced here today that a full session at the ministerial level regarding the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations will be held at 1300 local time tomorrow, Tuesday.

Mrs Therese Gastaut, spokesman for the UN's European Headquarters Information Bureau, told the INA team that tomorrow's session, which will be held under the auspices of Ambassador Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general, will be a continuation of the full session that both sides held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva last Saturday.

Ambassador Eliasson continued his separate unofficial consultations with both sides last night and this morning. It is noteworthy that the third full session of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations was held last Saturday at the conference hall, the same hall where direct negotiations opened on 25 August.

Information Minister Interviewed on Geneva Talks

JN0509191888 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
4 Sep 88 p 27

[Interview with Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister, by unidentified correspondent in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-QABAS] Some believe that Iran has accepted Resolution 598 to catch its breath in a long truce in order to reunify its ranks and resume the war. Is it really capable of doing so?

[Jasim] To be objective and accurate in our reply, we should recall how the two warring parties, Iraq and Iran, viewed peace. As is well known, Iraq accepted Security Council Resolution No 479 on 28 September 1980, that is, 6 days after the Iranian aggression was repulsed and Iraq entered Iranian territory to defend itself, regain the occupied Iraqi territory in Sayf Sa'd and Zayn al-Qaws, protect the Iraqi cities from Khomeyni's artillery and fire, and prevent an Iranian invasion of Iraq. Iraq continued to observe this firm position throughout the war. The Security Council issued seven resolutions—all accepted by Iraq. The last of these was Resolution No 598, which Iraq accepted only 3 days after its issuance. It documented its acceptance in a message sent by the Iraqi foreign minister to the UN secretary general. Iran has practically rejected all these resolutions. It accepted Security Council Resolution No 598 only 2 days before a whole year had passed, after it was totally convinced that it had been defeated militarily following the blessed Ramadan battles and the liberation of Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], Majnun, and Zubaydat, as well as the II and V Army Corps battles and the Muhammad Rasulullah battles. [passage omitted]

From our awareness of the background of Iran's acceptance of the resolution and from Khomeyni's message in which he equated his acceptance of the resolution with a deadly poison when he said that taking poison was easier for him than accepting the resolution and also when he said "how wretched I am," we can realize the extent of the psychological embarrassment and wickedness lurking in the minds of Khomeyni and his henchmen. He said to them: You should consider continuing the war. Acceptance of the Security Council resolution does not mean that the war is over. This is what he emphasized in his speech 2 days ago, when he said nobody should be disillusioned that the war is over. He then called on fighters to fill the battlefronts. We would also like to refer to what Hashemi-Rafsanjani said 3 days ago. He said that returning to the war after Iran's acceptance of the resolution would be easier and better than before.

This confirms to us through solid evidence and through the negotiations and the obstruction of the Geneva talks that the Iranian regime is not serious about the peace process, particularly as we are still locked into part of the first clause of the resolution on a cease-fire. Iraq stresses the need to consolidate the cease-fire on the ground, at sea, and in the air. This includes clearing the Shatt al-'Arab under UN supervision and guaranteeing unobstructed free navigation for Iraq in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. By attempting to obstruct this issue, the Iranian regime wants to benefit from part of the first clause on the cease-fire and deprive Iraq of its vital resources, particularly the Shatt al-'Arab and navigation in the Gulf, at a time when it receives benefits from its wide and long coastal outlets. This means that the Iranian regime wants to benefit from a temporary truce without getting into the essence of Security Council Resolution No 598 and the sequence of its operative clauses. We must agree and fix the cease-fire officially and then proceed to the other clauses according to their sequence—the first, second, third, fourth, and so on. However, under no circumstances shall we allow the Iranian regime to turn the cease-fire into a truce that enables it to catch its breath. Our Army is strong and our equipment is also strong; our reserves are large, our capabilities unlimited. We can turn the military or political picture the Iranian leaders have in mind upside down. From all this and from what is going on in Geneva, the deceitful, prevaricating, and misleading Iranian technique is confirmed.

The stream of false statements on negotiations blared out by the Iranian regime's leaders confirm the trend about which we have talked. It is a trend of charlatanism, juggling, and confusion of cards. When we are talking about the cease-fire clause and fixing the cease-fire, they talk about other clauses and mix this clause with another one. This is deceitful and misleading. Also, when we keep silent so that negotiations can proceed solidly and without any news media confusion, we find that the regime's leaders like Khomeyni, Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Velayati, and the prime minister lie to the news media about the true atmosphere and what is taking place at the negotiations. They mixed cards to confuse world public opinion when matters revolved around the cease-fire, clearing the Shatt al-'Arab by the United Nations, and confirming Iraq's right to free and unobstructed navigation in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

[AL-QABAS] It is well known that treaties and agreements can be revoked and torn when circumstances allow for that. You are looking forward to a peace and nonaggression agreement with Iran. How can you guarantee Iran's following such an agreement?

[Jasim] It is well known that there were 18 agreements between us and Iran, all of which were violated by Iran throughout history. [passage omitted] Thus, the Iranian regime's historical record shows that this regime rejects agreements. At present there is no valid agreement between us and the Iranian regime except the 1913 agreement. Speaking objectively, we fought for 8 years and offered all these sacrifices.In the meantime, there was an injustice, especially as the 1975 agreement was concluded under difficult circumstances and for well-known reasons, that is, to prevent sabotage and aid to saboteurs. Therefore, it is inadmissible that such injustice should continue, and Iraq's inalienable right to the Shatt al-'Arab and full sovereignty over it should be recognized because the Shatt al-'Arab is its only vital waterway. The agreement was concluded for something dear, but this thing was not achieved. It would then be illogical to continue to deal with this agreement. It would be correct and logical from a psychological and objective viewpoint—and we have no ambitions toward Iran's territory—to call for a new agreement under any name between us and the Iranian regime. Such an agreement should be binding to both sides and be supported by the international bodies and the Security Council. However, we will continue to be cautious about the future. If such an agreement takes place, we will back it with Iraq's military, economic, and moral power and Arab power because we face a regime that does not respect charters and pledges and tries to gain something here and there in any agreement it makes with Iraq.

[AL-QABAS] Is power then the guarantee for any agreement?

[Jasim] Power and clarity of rights to the world public opinion, the Arabs, and the Iraqi people in the first place, because it is these people who protect and defend agreements, land, and soveriegnty as they did for 8 years. [passage omitted]

Iranian Forces Continue Cease-Fire 'Violations'

JN0909211288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—Iranian forces have been continuing their cease-fire violations despite repeated warnings by Iraq through UN observers. The Iraqi side notified the international observers of these violations which they documented.

In the II Army Corps sector, 30 enemy personnel were seen on 8 September planting mines and laying wires in violation of the cease-fire.

In the III Army Corps sector, two enemy personnel approached the Iraqi units. They installed two anti-aircraft machineguns at 1125 [0725 GMT] of the same morning at a spot where Iranian units had not had such type of weapons previously.

At 1150, two enemy tanks were seen approaching from Iranian territory and took up positions 3 km away. Meanwhile, an engineering effort composed of three shovels and two dumptrucks were seen working on a dirt rampart.

In the I Army Corps sector, two pickup landcruiser vehicles—the first with 10 persons, the second with 4, were seen approaching our positions. The enemy personnel got off in front of our units in breach of the cease-fire. At 2240 [1840 GMT] yesterday the enemy fired eight ordinary tracer bullets using medium machineguns in the direction of the Iraqi side.

In the II Army Corps sector, two enemy contingents built two combat positions in breach of the cease-fire which forbid improvement of positions. At 0930 a number of enemy personnel dug a communication trench 20-41 meters long, 120 meters away from our front line positions. At 1800 two enemy units built two combat positions with sandbags in new spots in violation of the cease-fire which forbids improving or erecting new positions. At 1400 two Iranian officers approached our defensive positions and came within 80-100 meters of the barbed wire. They were warned and forced to withdraw.

In the I Army Corps special sector, at 0920 a landcruiser pickup with a number of enemy personnel came within 500 meters of our positions. They were warned and forced to flee.

In the III Army Corps sector, a number of enemy personnel at 0220 approached, were warned, and then forced to flee.

In the IV Army Corps sector, the enemy installed two anti-aircraft machineguns at 1125 in new positions where they had had no such weapons previously in breach of the ceasefire.

In the V Army Corps secotr, at 1115 the enemy built two positions.

In the VII Army Corps sector, the enemy's engineering effort is still active. At 1000, a boat with a number of enemy personnel tried to go out to the Shatt al-'Arab. They were forced to withdraw.

UN Observers Warn Iran

JN1209185588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—The cease-fire excesses and violations by the Iranian regime's forces continue every day despite Iraq's repeated warnings conveyed through the UN observers.

INA has learned that the Iraqi Armed Forces told the UN observers to register these Iranian excesses and violations. The Iraqi forces also took firm measures against these violations. In the I Army Corps sector, the enemy fired six ordinary shells from its forward positions in the direction of our forward units at a distance of 1 km at 2010 [1610 GMT] on 11 September.

In the II Army Corps sector, the enemy on 9 September was seen building an damaged communications trench at its old position. The enemy is probably laying down barbed wire opposite this trench. A UN observer patrol noted this and estimated the enemy's force as an infantry regiment.

At 1840 on 11 September, an enemy group dug a trench 150 meters away from our forward lines. At 1930, the enemy unilaterally set up a barrier to obstruct the road 1 km away from our forward positions.

In the III Army Corps sector, the enemy made three openings, each 3-meters wide, on the enemy canal at 1100 on 11 September. At 1810, a number of enemy personnel were seen opposite an enemy rampart. At 1840, an enemy bulldozer was seen in the no-man's-land 400 meters away from our forward units and 150 meters opposite enemy units. The UN observers were informed of these violations.

In the IV Army Corps sector, a group of enemy personnel was seen setting up a 20-meter-high iron tower behind an enemy rampart 2 and 7 km [figures as received] from our units' forward lines. At 1310, a large vehicle was ssen carrying a group of enemy personnel and the enemy set up a control point in violation of the cease-fire.

At 4 o'clock [not further specified] on 11 September, a helicopter landed for 1 minute opposite our units then took off deep inside Iran. The enemy elevated an iron tower by 2 meters, making it 22 meters high. An enemy infantry company was seen carrying out training activities 800-1,000 meters from our units' forward lines. The enemy also set up an observation post.

In the V Army Corps sector, the enemy fired three RPG-7 shells and several light weapon bullets at our forward units at 1830 on 11 September. Also at 1830, a number of enemy personnel were seen on a peak setting up a guard post on Iranian territory 300 meters away from our units' forward lines.

In the VI Army Corps sector, the enemy at 1045 set up a machinegun emplacement on an embankment. A vehicle was seen carrying 20 enemy personnel who disembarked in the same place. These excesses were seen by the UN observers who informed the UN observer team.

At 1015, the enemy sent a number of personnel to an embankment 1,800 meters away from our units' forward lines. The personnel returned to their positions after our units warned them.

In the VII Army Corps sector, an enemy engineering effort was seen. It consisted of two steamrollers and two dumptrucks which were paving a road at 1615. At 1715, another effort was seen consisting of three dump trucks, one steamroller, and one bulldozer. They planned to set up embankments around Abadan in the direction of the west bank. An enemy engineering effort was also seen between 1605-1730 working to elevate and spread sand around the Iranian embankment which was built south of Abadan. The enemy also set up a medium machinegun opposite our positions.

President Presides Over RCC-Al-Ba'th Meeting

JN1009122788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn here today presided over a joint meeting of the RCC and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Paper Cites U.S. Sources on U.S.-Iran Ties

JN1100110988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Sep (INA)—Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, citing U.S. diplomatic sources today, said that the United States and Iran will resume relations next month. The paper added that these sources—close to Vice President George Bush, the next presidential candidate—affirm that a British diplomat, David Reddaway, is presently preparing for the resumption of U.S.-Iranian relations.

Foreign Ministry Official Returns From Nicosia

JN1209130088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—Wisam al-Zahawi, undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and head of the Iraqi delegation to the nonaligned foreign ministers conference which concluded its meetings in Nicosia yesterday, returned here today.

Shamir Comments on Husayn, Syria, Other Issues

TA1209132288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Sep 88

["Special interview" with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the occasion of the Jewish New Year, by Arye Golan, Me'ir Einstein, and 'Oded Ben-'Ami; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ben-'Ami] It seems that our success in approaching peace has been so negligible that even those who considered King Husayn as an appropriate partner for negotiations have abandoned that notion. Does this worry you?

[Shamir] Look, King Husayn was understandably disappointed. He has despaired of his part in the negotiating process and in the stages of the peace process. I do not think, however, that the king has said his last word. After all, we have a long border with Jordan, and the close ties between the Jordanian people and the people in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip cannot be ignored, either. I hope we will yet have a chance to meet with the Jordanian rulers at the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, in a similar interview a year ago, you said we are constantly drawing closer to peace. In your estimation did the events of the last year bring us nearer to peace in the region?

[Shamir] I am positive we are drawing nearer to peace. Each passing year draws us closer to peace. I can explain this logically: The more the years go by and the more the various Arab elements try to attack Israel, to disrupt its life, and to harm it, and the more their attempts fail, then the more the time of reckoning draws nearer. The time of reckoning will arrive when more and more Arab elements reach the conclusion that theirs is not the way to achieve a settlement with Israel. Since Israel cannot be eliminated or evicted from the Middle East, they will understand they must arrive at an understanding with us, and the way to achieve that is through direct negotiations. Each passing year and each failed attempt on their part draws us nearer to that time.

[Ben-'Ami] When you speak of drawing nearer to peace, do you remember the fact that, in a wider circle of events, the Iran-Iraq war has ended? It seems to me that instead of considering these two—mainly Iraq, perhaps—as possible partners for a political move, they are considered as new participants in the eastern front. Is the Syrian threat no longer on the agenda?

[Shamir] It certainly is. How can we strike it off our agenda when Syria has not changed its policies and deployment, its declarations, or the attitude of its people? That danger still exists. We are aware of the limitations a country like Syria has to consider, without which it would have attempted to carry out its evil intentions with respect to Israel a long time ago. The danger is there, and we have to live with it.

[Ben-'Ami] Is Syria the main danger to Israel?

[Shamir] It is at this moment the most prominent threat in the region. It is hard to presume, however, that Syria will dare take the risk of attacking Israel with the present situation. [passage omitted]

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, you have said that we must take the political initiative. What then is your opinion of unilateral autonomy?

[Shamir] The question is whether unilateral autonomy will draw us nearer negotiations. Such autonomy, in fact, precludes the possibility of negotiations because it means coercing the population of the territories. The aim has always been to arrive at something in common, at cooperation and mutual understanding, at a different atmosphere, one of mutual trust. This was the basic concept of the Camp David accords. The 5 years of autonomy, according to these accords, should change the prevailing attitudes and create mutual trust which, in turn, will enable us to reach a permanent solution acceptable to all the parties.

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, do you see any partners to negotiation within the territories? Are we trying to find such people?

[Shamir] I think such people exist.

[Einstein] I am talking about representative people.

[Shamir] The question is—and herein lies the problem—finding representatives with whom we can talk and make agreements which would later become realities. I think this can be done with the help of the neighboring Arab countries, which, through a joint effort, could succeed in gathering authoritative and credible representatives of the population, albeit temporary ones because they would not be elected representatives.

[Golan] Your political rivals argue that you actually favor the status quo over negotiations because if negotiations were to take place, you could be forced to make concessions, and, as is known, you are an advocate of a Greater Eretz Yisra'el.

[Shamir] That is a lie. I am against the status quo because that means absence of peace. I strive for peace, and consequently I could not favor the status quo. I do not think, however, that any change whatsoever is better than the present situation; that is not what I think. There can be changes for the worse, whereas I want changes for the better.

[Ben-'Ami] What about those Palestinian representatives we are talking about whom someone may help us bring together? Would you subscribe to the view that any Palestinian agreeing to become a representative is confronted with the alternative of either getting the PLO's permission or getting killed?

[Shamir] We cannot go into all the difficulties of putting together such a representation. At the moment it looks like some kind of dream, but we have seen dreams turn into facts in the Middle East. For example, who expected Al-Sadat to come to Jerusalem all of a sudden? Had anybody made such a prediction 2 months before it happened he would have been called a madman, a daydreamer. Therefore, I would not altogether rule it out.

The PLO, however, is can not be considered. I rule the PLO out of any possible peace negotiations, not because of its so-called good deeds but simply because it is not interested in peace and does not want to make peace with us. Its raison d'etre, outlook, and ambitions center on the annihilation of Israel and are not directed at peace. Therefore, any PLO statement, decision, or agreement would be part of its theory on elimination by stages—which in any case is the theory upheld by the moderates in its midst—from which they are not going to budge. Therefore, once and for all, we must give up on their participation and completely rule out any dialogue with them.

[Golan] Mr Shamir, have you seen the public opinion poll conduct by Dr Mina Tzemah, who works for the Likud, showing that 50 percent of the public disagree with you or, in other words, are prepared to conduct negotiations with the PLO?

[Shamir] I am not prepared to argue with polls, neither am I prepared to argue with the people who answered the polls. Findings depend on the way questions are posed and on the question asked. What is more, I do not think that the position of a political bloc should be determined by a series of polls or people's opinions. A political movement must determine its ideology and persuade the citizens to accept it rather than the other way around.

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, you have said changes will occur in the region and you hope they will occur in the Arab countries. Why do you not think a change could also occur in the PLO?

[Shamir] Look, the PLO was established with one purpose in mind: to annihilate the State of Israel. But countries are different; they exist in order to provide a frame of life for their citizens. Countries can and do change their policy. We have seen as much. The moment the PLO stops to strive, yearn, and act for the annihilation of Israel, it will lose its raison d'etre; it will have to disband and disperse. I closely follow everything the PLO says and writes, and I do not see any sign whatsoever that it is on its way to disbanding or dispersing. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] Relations with Eastern Europe, the USSR in particular, have been an active issue this last year. Israeli diplomats have been keeping a permanent presence in the USSR, while a Soviet consular delegation has been here for over a year. Do you foresee any rapprochement? You have always argued that it is very important to have full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

[Shamir] I welcome any sign of improvement in relations between us and the USSR. Although our delegation does not yet have much to show for its efforts and this very low level of relations cannot yet be called diplomatic ties, this is nevertheless something and is better than nothing. I have always strived for an improvement in relations with the East European Socialist countries. We are still doing that, and I am glad that some progress, however slow, has been made.

[Ben-'Ami] Does your scheduled visit to Hungary come in the context of this striving to improve relations?
[Shamir] Among other things.

[Ben-'Ami] Where will it lead? Will it ultimately lead to full diplomatic relations?

[Shamir] I have no doubt whatsoever that this will ultimately be the case. After all, that is the purpose: attaining normal relations because they open more possibilities for some of the tacit agreements existing today such as on economic, cultural, and other ties. That is what we are striving for. Diplomatic ties are not a goal on their own merit; there is also the question of improving the climate, relations, and cooperation in certain areas. After all, we cannot forget one basic fact which represents a primary Israeli interest: A large number of Jewish people live in the Soviet Union. There is a rather large Jewish community in Hungary, but in the Soviet Union there are some 3 million Jews. This is a vast part of our national essence and assets, which I consider a primary political factor.

[Golan] Cynics will say that due to the fact that we are on the eve of elections you and Mr Peres are vying for international visits which cause a great deal of publicity, and that this may also be the reason for your upcoming visit to Hungary.

[Shamir] I do not think so. We have always strived for and wished for closer relations. I must say that despite the elections and the fact that arguments are becoming more acute as the elections get nearer, I would welcome any move leading to a rapprochement between us and the Soviet Union and its allies.

[Golan] Even if this is achieved by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres?
[Shamir] Definitely.

[Ben-'Ami] Incidentally, there is an Israeli diplomat in the Israeli interests office in Hungary. So why is your planned visit being held under a shroud of secrecy?

[Shamir] It is not a question of personal whims and preferences but the result of a given situation.

[Einstein] Sir, are we investing all these efforts in improving relations with the Eastern Bloc countries because the way to peace and a dialogue with the Arab countries may lie there?

[Shamir] I would not say that is exactly the way leading to peace, but these countries could contribute to peace. The Soviet Union is one of the superpowers, enjoying great influence in the Middle East, and we would like its influence to work more in the direction of moderation and bringing about peace.

[Einstein] Do you get the impression that the Soviet Union has really been working in that direction recently, that it has been moderating extremist elements in the Arab world?

[Shamir] I would say that is the Soviet Union's interest, but I could not risk saying to what extent it has been doing that. On the other hand, I do not see that the Soviet Union is promoting more extremism.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you see the circle of East European countries with which we hold some kind of relations expanding next year to perhaps include Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia?

[Shamir] I would not be surprised if that were the case because there are fundamentally no differences among the political views of those countries. It could happen, but it would depend on the success of the relations, on whether they yield any encouraging results. This is a slow process, but surprisingly positive developments could take place.

[Ben-'Ami] Would it be right to say that the East European countries are the ones that are courting us in a bid to approach the United States, wooing U.S. investments, and extracting preferential trade conditions?

[Shamir] There are numerous and complex interests involved. Just as the Jewish factor is very important to us, so is the influence and power of Jews in America and all over the world very important to them.

[Einstein] Has the attitude of the Soviet authorities toward Jews improved?

[Shamir] There have been certain improvements, but they are insufficient. I would like to see more progress in terms of the number of exit visas being issued, which currently is very low. In addition, we would like to see a more positive attitude toward the establishment of Jewish cultural institutions as desired by Soviet Jews. At the moment there are expressions of sympathy on the part of official Soviet elements, but there is nothing tangible in the field. [passage omitted]

Rabin Speaks on Peace, Other Issues

JN1309063588 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Sep 88 p 5

[Dispatch from Jerusalem by Amirah Hasan]

[Text] One of the most prominent reflections of the Palestinian uprising on Israel is that it has activated the Israeli mentality after a freeze in its thinking concerning the occupation of the occupied territories. The uprising caused a great deal of movement in the Israeli mentality which led it to attempt to comprehend the situation it had thrown itself into and to look into the future—perhaps for the first time—and realize that the continuation of the uprising is against the interest and future of the Israeli state itself, contrary to what the callers for expansionism tried to instill in people's minds.

As a result, many trends appeared in the aftermath of the uprising demanding an end to the occupation and for negotiations with the Palestinians. This resulted in both the Likud and Labor parties to change their election programs.

AL-AHRAM has asked its correspondent in Tel Aviv to interview two leading Labor Party figures, Minister of Defense Yitzhaq Rabin and Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman on their opinions of the present and future situation. We pause, however, at a phenomenon which attracts our attention: Although there is an election program for the party, each member of the party has his own opinion which might differ from that of his partner. On the other hand, each says that what they state is the official opinion of the party.

I asked Yitzhaq Rabin: Are you satisfied with the latest work program and is there any change?

He answered: Basically, there is no radical change because we all want peace on our eastern border. I am talking from the point of view of an Israeli. This can be achieved with Jordan and the Palestinians together. It cannot be achieved with Jordan alone or with the Palestinians alone. When I say Palestinians, I mean those living here in the territories and maybe other Palestinians as well. There cannot be peace without responding to the Palestinian problem. Whoever talks about peace on the eastern borders of Israel is obliged to take into consideration the partners in this peace; Jordan, Israel, and I say the representatives of the Palestinians, first and foremost those residing in the region, for the simple reason that peace negotiations on the eastern borders will decide the future and destiny of the Palestinian people. It is inconceivable that the Palestinians are not partners in the negotiations that will decide their destiny and future.

If Jordan is not present in the first phase, then who can negotiate with the Palestinians. This cannot be about peace on our eastern borders, because without Jordan, we can only work through our relations with Palestinians in the territories. I am ready to negotiate with any Palestinian individual or group about all issues, particularly the political issue. First, there is the Palestine [National] Charter, which we should not consider as their Koran. They must recognize Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 as the only basis for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. They must abandon violence and terrorism, and must be ready to negotiate. Anyone who accepts these conditions can become a partner in the negotiations.

I asked him Even the PLO, after Abu Iyad's [Salah Khalaf] recent statements?

Rabin said: I have been hearing this for 20 years. I heard endless statements and that the Palestinians want peace on our eastern border with Jordan or within the Israeli-Palestinian framework. The priority is for the population of the territories who accept my four conditions which I have already mentioned.

I asked: What will the negotiations deal with? Will they be on withdrawal or on an independent state?

He said: They will be on peace on the eastern border. This cannot take place without Jordan. It is not possible to talk with the Palestinians without Jordan, and without making arrangements to resolve the problems between us. You know, there are two theories inside the government. We in the Labor Party have a program saying that whoever accepts our four conditions can participate in negotiating a solution without preconditions.

I asked: Regarding your war against the popular committees, is it logical to sentence a person to 10 years in prison because he is affiliated with popular committees? Does Israel want to incite the middle class in the occupied territories?

Rabin said: The other option we had was to submit to violence. I reject this because violence generates more violence. Those who want to talk and negotiate are welcome at the table of negotiations.

I asked: With whom?
Rabin said: Whoever desires peace and recognizes Israel's existence.

I said: But whoever desires peace finds himself either detained or deported like Faysal al-Husayni and others in the new deportation list.

Rabin said: I do not decide who the Palestinian leadership is. I was not among those who said that Israel failed to establish a Palestinian leadership. This is because they themselves—I mean the population of the territories—have to decide. Before the uprising, I talked with pro-PLO Palestinians, including fundamentalists and pro-Jordan Palestinians.

I asked: With whom?

Rabin said: I cannot give names.
I asked: There is one tune among the population of the occupied territories which is that the PLO is the sole representative.
He said: No single Palestinian was jailed for his ideas and nobody was deported because of his opinion.
I asked: Then why was Faysal al-Husayni detained?
Rabin: Because he instigated violence.
I asked: How? He was under administrative detention?
Rabin: This was after he was released. He was not detained for his ideas, but because of his involvement with an organization calling for violence, though not publicly.

[no question as published]
Rabin: The Labor Party is currently against the establishment of a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan. If I say yes to negotiations with the PLO, this means yes to a Palestinian state. Therefore, I negotiate with the Palestinians, but I am against negotiations with the organization.

[no question as published]
He said: No for the PLO. I do not expect the Arab countries to agree to negotiate or to accept our position. I am not expected to approve the Palestinians' extremist positions. Negotiations are to bring viewpoints closer. We in the Labor Party are aware that a Palestinian problem exists.

I asked him: Is it enough that you know that there is a Palestinian problem?

Rabin said: This is why we do not want to annex most of the territories to Israel. We want to reach a solution with Jordan and the Palestinians to live in peace, and to reach a solution to the Palestine question.

I said: What happened at the Ansar III camp when the detainees were fired on, martyring two and wounding others?

Rabin: The Ansar III prison is not a three or four star hotel. There are rules in every prison, and if anyone who, through violence, seeks to disrupt order then there are ways and means to deal with violence. Therefore, the first thing we do is to call through the loudspeakers, then use tear gas, then we fire rubber bullets. If the prisoners continue with their violence then the lives of the prison guards are endangered.

I interrupted him: But after visiting Ansar III, Knesset member Dadi Shukar [name as published] said that that the detainees can harm no one because there is a barrier there which prevents them from reaching anyone, and that they did not at all pose a threat to the soldiers.

Rabin looked in amazement at his spokesman who attended the interview and said: Knesset member Shukar was not there. However, he has the right to say what he likes, but his statements are incorrect.

I asked him: Does Israel plan to close this camp after the International Red Cross blamed it for the harsh conditions in the camp?

Rabin: It is impossible to close it despite the difficult conditions in it. We, from soldier to defense minister, are not pleased with this situation. If violence stops then we will stop deportations, demolishing houses, and arrests. However, so long as violence continues the prisons will remain.

I asked: You always say that the military solution is not enough without a political solution. Since the eruption of the uprising we have only seen the military solution?

Rabin: The political solution is the only solution to settle the conflict. However, as a defense minister I do not give orders to the soldiers regarding the political solution. I said that the soldiers should take into consideration two objectives: The first is that in order to reach a political solution we must restore stability because we cannot achieve this through stones, incendiary bottles, and violence. The second is that the civil administration and the revolutionary [as published] councils should perform their duties in the interest of the occupied citizens.

I said: Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, were you personally in favor of the war continuing?

Rabin: In recent years, or in fact the past year, I came to believe that the war was not useful to Israel because it made the Arabs join the arms race.

I asked: What problems will Israel face in 10 years time?

Rabin: Where do you get these questions from? We must be strong in order to prevent any Arab state from waging a war against us, to maintain peace with Egypt, to develop this peace, to search for means to consolidate peace on the eastern front, such as negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians preferably through a joint delegation, and to prevent terrorism and violence.

I asked: What is your opinion on Egypt's relations with Israel today?

Rabin: The fact of having peace with Egypt and maintaining this peace is better than war. Although normalization is not achieved and peace is a cold one, but it is still better than war.

Egypt Releases Yacht As Envoys Intervene

TA0909175588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The Egyptian Coast Guard has released the Israeli yacht "Maya" which it intercepted this morning. Onboard were 30 travelers, 15 Israelis and 15 tourists. Our correspondent in Elat reports that the ship managed to sail despite the damage caused to it during the Egyptian takeover.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that when news of the ship's interception reached Jerusalem at noon, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni was requested to intervene and bring about its release. At the same time, the Foreign Ministry asked Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, to report the incident to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid also intervened in the affair, and as reported, the ship is now sailing toward Elat.

Our correspondent in Elat adds that the commander of the Red Sea area advised against yacht owners not to demonstrate near Coral Island because they would be crossing the border illegally.

Peres Says 'Willing To Absorb' Kurdish Orphans

TA1109113488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has announced that Israel is willing to absorb 200 Kurdish orphans from Iraq in the youth immigration institutions. This was decided in a discussion between the foreign minister, the prime minister, and the absorption minister.

In his communique, Minister Peres stated that the decision had been taken in the face of the Iraqi Army's activities against the Kurdish people, and the use it makes of lethal chemical weapons. This was reported by our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Peace Activist Comments on Talks With 'Arafat

TA1309074888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Abie Nathan [Israeli peace activist and owner of the Voice of Peace broadcasting ship] conferred with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis last night. In a telephone conversation with our U.S. correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, Abie Nathan said that he presented the PLO chief with a proposal for a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians that includes mutual recognition. He said that the main element in the plan is a public call by 'Arafat for a moratorium on all hostilities, including the uprising in the territories, for a period of 100 days. Abie Nathan also asked 'Arafat for information on Israeli POW's and MIA's in Lebanon. Israel, Nathan said, will simultaneously release all the Palestinian detainees imprisoned since the outbreak of the uprising. According to Abie Nathan, 'Arafat promised to consider the plan after his visit to Strasbourg to address the European Parliament. Abie Nathan added that he does not fear detention upon his return to Israel for breaking the law [forbidding contact with the PLO]. He plans to request a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to brief them on the plan he presented to 'Arafat. U.S. congressmen in Washington had reported that Abie Nathan conferred with 'Arafat a few weeks ago, but that report was never confirmed.

Yasir 'Arafat is scheduled to arrive in Strasbourg today to address members of the Socialist Party in the European Parliament.

Mordekhay Sees Tension Rising as Elections Near

TA0909180588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, says that as the elections in Israel and the United States approach, tension will rise in the territories and the residents will heed any pamphlet. This will result from their expectations for political declarations, among other things.

The commander of the Southern Command added that in the past 2 weeks, the level of violence in Gaza has declined, and there have even been relatively quiet days, similar to those before the uprising. This includes regular attendance at work and schools. He noted however, that he does not believe the uprising has ended.

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay was briefing journalists following his announcement that the infrastructure of the popular committees in Gaza had been exposed and that 200 of their members had been detained. This was reported by our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 9 September adds that "The commander of the Southern Command says that several religious organizations are operating in the Gaza Strip as well. So far there is no clear information on their methods, but the IDF will take steps against them when the time is right.

"The head of the Civil Administration in Gaza said that the local authorities continue operating despite pressure. The school year opened at the beginning of August and more than 100,000 students returned to school."]

IDF Said To Return to 'Energetic Training'

TA1009114388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Major General Uri Sagi, commander of the field forces, says that the IDF has returned once again, and more intensely so, to an energetic training program. All units and systems in the Army are steadily preparing for D-day, which, hopefully, will not come about. According to Maj Gen Sagi, after a relatively short period of time the army has successfully managed to simultaneously cope with the events in the territories, and conduct training programs and drills. The field forces command has formulated a whole combat theory with regard to everything pertaining to the territories, he added. Maj Gen Sagi was interviewed by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Maj Gen Sagi added that Syria is building up its army, training and preparing it for an eventual war. The general said there is, however, no need to panic. He noted that the IDF will be able to adjust its response according to the circumstances.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 10 September adds: "Maj Gen Uri Sagi says that the possibility that the Iraqi Army might join other battlefronts, now that its war with Iran is over, poses an operational-strategic threat to us. According to the general, the Iraqi Army has gained a great deal of combat experience and we should be alert and ready."]

Nisim Receives Shamir's Support for Budget Cuts

TA1109114988 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Sep 88 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem economic correspondent Amnon Atad]

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Moshe Nisim is to bring up a proposal at next week's Cabinet meeting to cut all ministerial budgets across the board, except that of the Defense Ministry.

Nisim will introduce his proposal having received Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's support on Friday for his plan to cut the state budget. In the meeting with the prime minister, Treasury officials did not bring up concrete proposals for cuts, but it has been learned that the plans prepared in the Finance Ministry refer cutting some 600 million shekels.

According to the Finance Ministry proposal, about one half of this amount would be cut even before the elections, while the remainder should be cut by the end of the budgetary year.

Shamir met with Finance Minister Moshe Nisim and the Treasury heads in his office. Nisim and the budgetary director gave the prime minister the details of the government ministries' excess spending. They said that excess spending on subsidies reached 100 million shekels, and that it continues to increase at the rate of 1 million shekels a day.

The direct cost of the intifada [uprising] to the defense establishment will be some 100 million shekels this year while another 80 million shekels will be added to the defense budget in the next budgetary year.

There were also unplanned expenditures in agriculture. The increase in the price of foreign grain increased government expenditures by 50 million shekels, and the government had to spend a similar amount on farmers as compensation for damages caused by the heat wave.

Additional expenditures, not yet implemented, are payments involved in the assistance program for kibbutzim and moshavim, and the new wage agreements in the public sector.

In addition to the excess spending this year there was also a significant drop in government income from indirect taxes, mostly resulting from a slowdown in the economy and a drop in demand. This decline so far amounts to 200-300 million shekels. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows Majority Supports Talks With Jordan

TA0809131788 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Sep 88 p A9

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Rami Levi, director general of Decima-Israel, and Dr Ya'aqov Ezrahi, its scientific director, yesterday presented the findings of one of the institute's polls on how the public believes the intifada can be solved.

Figures in percentages:

Mar 88	Jun 88	Aug 88	
78	77	71	Start negotiations with Jordan
72	72	66	Deport more instigators
62	56	55	Use a tough policy against inciters
33	32	not asked	Hold free elections in the territories
32	32	not asked	Remove IDF from population centers
19	23	27	Start talks with the PLO
not asked	43	35	Institute unilateral autonomy

Knesset Election Polls Show Different Results

TA0909190988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Sep 88 pp A1, 2, 3

[Text] Three public opinion polls conducted during the past 4 weeks show contradictory election results forecasts. According to a Dahaf Institute poll, the Alignment will have 42 Knesset seats while the Likud will get only 40.

The Modi'in Ezrahi poll shows that the Alignment will get 34 Knesset seats while the Likud will get 42. A poll conducted by the Tatzpit Institute establishes the following: 46 Knesset seats for the Alignment and 36 for the Likud.

The interviewees were asked for their vote had elections been held today. Some of the interviews were conducted by phone while others were held in private. According to the Modi'in Ezrahi poll, the months of June, July, and August show a slight rise for the Likud (from 41 to 42 Knesset seats) and a slight drop for the Alignment (from 35 to 34 Knesset seats).

The Decima Israel Institute, which polled the Arab sector during the first half of August, shows 43 Knesset seats for the Alignment and 38 for the Likud.

—Modi'in Ezrahi, directed by Dr Rahel Yisre'eli, conducted its poll during the 2d week of August. It used private interviews to poll a sample population representing Jewish urban and rural settlements. It should be noted that in accordance with the scientific prediction method, the data include the voting trends of a population that has not been questioned and whose responses were nonspecific. (The poll does not include data on Memad and Moledet).

—The Dahaf Institute, directed by Dr Mina Tzemah, conducted its poll at the beginning of August. (The poll does not include data on Memad and Moledet). Dahaf is associated with the Likud.

—Tatzpit, directed by Dr Aharon Fein, conducted its poll in late August and early September. The population sample represents the urban and rural adult Jewish population. The computation included voting patterns of Israeli Arabs. The poll was conducted by phone.

—Decima Israel, directed by Dr Ya'aqov Ha'ezrahi, conducted its poll of the Arab sector during the first half of August. The poll included both personal and telephone interviews (but no data on Moledet). Decima Israel is associated with the Alignment.

	Decima	Tatzpit	Dahaf	Modi'in Ezrahi
Alignment	43	46	42	34
Likud	38	36	40	42
Tehiya, Tzomet, Moledet, KAKH	11	10	11	15
MAPAM, Center-Shinuy Movement, Citizens' Rights Movement	12	11	10	10
National Religious Party, SHAS [Torah Observing Sepharadim], Agudat Yisra'el, Memad	8	10	10	12
Progressive List for Peace, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality]	8	7	7	7

(The Decima Israel poll shows data collected in the Arab sector)

Poll Reflects Increase in Floating Votes

TA0909131288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Sep 88 p 2

[Report by Eliyahu Katz]

[Excerpt] The number of undecided voters increased between June and August, according to the latest public opinion poll by The Continuing Survey of the Israel Institute of Applied Social Research and the Smart Family Foundation Communications Institute of the Hebrew University.

With the elections less than two months away, 27 percent of those polled have not yet made up their minds, compared with a figure of 21 percent in the late-June poll.

This possible unfreezing of political loyalties is further supported by the finding that a voter's choice in 1984 is less likely now to guide his choice than it was in the June poll. Among 1984 voters for the smaller parties, the proportion of still-undecided is high, and current party-switching is particularly marked among 1984 voters supporting the small parties on the right.

About 60 percent of former voters for the two major parties are planning to repeat their votes in 1988. While 25 percent among them are still undecided, only about two to three percent appear to have crossed over from one major party to another.

The poll, which was conducted among a representative national sample of 1,196 Jewish adults, shows the two major parties running neck and neck, with 37 percent of decided Jewish voters supporting each. this represents a very slight change from the previous split of 38 to 35 percent, in Labour's favour.

The relative strength of the right-wing bloc has also shrunk slightly, the ratio now standing at 51:47, compared to 53:47 in June.

The Citizens Rights Movement, CRM, with 7 percent of decided voters, remains the most popular small party, but Tehiya—its ideological counterpart on the right—may be losing strength to the confusing number of mushrooming rightist parties and to the growing number of undecided.

The religious parties, taken together, add 7 percent to the strength of the right. The ostensible advantage of the right may be upset, however, by the Arab vote that is not included in the survey.

Speculation abounds about the identity of the undecided voters. Analysis of past voting by the undecided as well as of their ideological leanings, suggested that this group may be hesitating among parties within [preceding word in italics] a bloc rather than between blocs. [passage omitted]

Arab Voters Election Preferences Polled

TA0909130488 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Sep 88 p 3

[Report by Qasim Zayyad]

[Text] A poll published yesterday in the KUL AL-'ARAB weekly, conducted by the Al-Bustani advertising firm, shows that the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] will receive 18 percent of the Arab votes, HADASH will receive 38.6 percent, the Progressive List for Peace [PLFP] 14 percent, the Alignment 10 percent, the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] 6 percent, MAPAM 4 percent, the Likud 5.4, Shinuy 3.4, and the National Religious Party 0.7 percent. The poll included a sample of 550 Arabs over the age of 18, including 70 women. The poll indicates that the left-wing parties (HADASH, ADP, the PLFP, MAPAM, and the CRM) will receive 83 percent of the votes in the Arab sector.

The interviewees were asked who was the person who represents them. The answers indicate that Knesset Member [MK] Darawshah leads with 18 percent. After him come HADASH MK Tawfiq Zayyad with 13.7 percent and Tawfiq Tubi with 11.5 percent. MK Yosi Sarid with 11.7 [as published] percent comes before MK Muhammad Mi'ari with 9.4 percent.

Agreement Signed To Obtain Warplanes From UK

JN1209152888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Amman—In light of the eagerness of His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to modernize and develop the Royal Jordanian Air Force and reinforce its role in defending the homeland, an agreement was signed between the Jordanian and Britishh Governments in London last Friday under which Jordan will receive a number of British Tornado warplanes.

Kuwaiti Paper Interviews Al-Rifa'i on PLO Ties

JN1109165588 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Sep 88 p 23

[Interview with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i in Cairo by Sawsan Abu Husayn—date not given]

[Text] [Abu Husayn] Mr Prime Minister, it is natural to begin by asking about King Husayn's visit to Cairo, especially since it follows the Jordanian decision to disengage ties with the West Bank and his majesty's visit to some Arab states, the last of which was Saudi Arabia. Is there new coordination or future steps that Jordan is discussing with these states?

[Al-Rifa'i] Actually, His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Alexandria was originally private. The visit was to commemorate one of his majesty's brothers, who died in Britain. He was his schoolmate, and his colleagues—the graduates of Victoria College—liked to collectively participate in commemorating him. However, it is natural that when His Majesty King Husayn visits his second country, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and meets with his brother, His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, he holds talks with him on all new developments in the Arab arena. The talks, of course, touched on recent Jordanian decisions. His Excellency President Husni Mubarak was completely aware of what was happening the moment these decisions were made. His majesty the king and President Mubarak also discussed the ways and means of developing relations between the two sisterly countries. These relations are strong, and we will continue our contacts, coordination, and cooperation, and discuss all that benefits the Arab nation.

[Abu Husayn] Some diplomats in Cairo described the Jordanian decision as one of the most important and serious Arab decisions on the Palestine question since 1948. What results has this decision yielded thus far?

[Al-Rifa'i] The positive aspects of the Jordanian decision appeared the 1st day it was adopted. As all noted, the decision annoyed the United States on the international level and Israel on the regional level. This indicates that the decision was in itself positive because it projected and concentrated on the PLO's role. Consequently, the United States can no longer ignore cooperation with the PLO nor can Israel ignore the presence of a Palestinian people under occupation on the land of Palestine and the rights of these people on the soil of their homeland. Thus, the Jordanian decision placed the Palestine question on a sound course. This question is one of a new colonialism and the occupation by a state of the territories of a people under occupation. All this takes place when colonialism is being liquidated. There is a contradiction and a paradox here. Israel should withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories and give the Palestinian people their rights.

[Abu Husayn] Regarding the Jordanian decision, some say that a large and mysterious international political arrangement had pushed matters to the point they reached; that is, to the disengagement decision, and that the results will appear after the next Israeli and U.S. elections, which will be in favor of peace in the Middle East. What is your opinion?

[Al-Rifa'i] This is inaccurate. What prompted His Majesty King Husayn to adopt his recent decision was first, his desire to respond to the wish of the PLO and the general Arab trend and Jordan's desire to project the PLO's role and place the issue on the right course. As I said previously, it is an issue of an occupied Palestinian land and people under occupation. Occupation of the land and people should be removed and these people should have the right to determine their future. Any quarter seeking a peaceful settlement should talk to the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people and the sole legitimate representative now is the PLO. Consequently, the subject is not related to international arrangements.

If what is meant is that previous international efforts were to solve the Palestine question or reach a settlement by excluding the PLO and the Palestinian people and to resolve the issue through Jordan, the recent Jordanian move of disengagement with the West Bank has put a final end to what the enemy terms the Jordanian option. The only option they have if they want to reach a settlement is to talk to the PLO. Naturally, this does not mean that Jordan is no longer concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan is a confrontation state, and its borders with Israel are longer than those of any other Arab country, including the West Bank.

[Abu Husayn] Jordan is in trouble, making the decision without the prior knowledge of or consultation with the PLO, which might otherwise have resolved issues and filled the vacuum in the West Bank.

[Al-Rifa'i] Jordan acted in response to a PLO and Arab wish that had found expression in a series of Arab summit resolutions. We cannot see the logic behind the complaint that the PLO had not been consulted or advised beforehand. For our part, we ask why someone should be consulted about something someone else has decided to give him. We offered the PLO nothing new. We offered them something they had always insisted on. Consult with them? What about? Had we done that, would the PLO have said no? Jordan's decision fully satisfied the PLO wishes. In any case, we do not pay much attention to what is said about this.

[Abu Husayn] How will Jordan's decision affect UN Security Council Resolution No 242 as that land now has no owner?

[Al-Rifa'i] It will have no effect because it does not provide for Israel's evacuation of Jordanian territory, but territory occupied in 1967. In any case, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution No 605, which is just as strong as Resolution No 242, and which came against the backdrop of the Palestinian uprising. Resolution No 605 expressly mentions the occupied Palestinian land. Therefore, rather than change anything, Jordan's decisions have made the point that the question is not one of occupied land being disputed by countries in the region. The dispute concerns the Palestinian people, who want Israel to evacuate Palestinian land. Our decisions have also made it impossible for Israel to contend that the territory was part of Jordan, is inhabited by Jordanians, and the problem will go away if the land is returned to Jordan. We have, in effect, made it absolutely clear to Israel that this is an occupied Palestinian land.

[Abu Husayn] How can the Jordanian decision be brought into play alongside the Palestinian uprising?

[Al-Rifa'i] We see the Jordanian decision reinforcing the uprising and orienting it in the right direction. We therefore hope the PLO will make the right decisions and use the uprising to promote its goals; namely, the end of aggression, Israeli withdrawal, and the restitution of legitimate Palestinian rights.

[Abu Husayn] As the country with the longest borders with Palestine, what is Jordan's likely role in future?

[Al-Rifa'i] Jordan has a key role in any peace process. In the event of an international conference, Jordan will attend along with its Arab brethren and make its full pan-Arab contribution to a just, comprehensive, regional settlement. We will also give continuous support for the PLO until the Palestinian people realize their rights.

[Abu Husayn] Against the backdrop of Jordanian-Palestinian and Jordanian-Egyptian consultations, how do you view the ideal status of the West Bank? Would an announcement on an interim Palestinian government and an independent Palestinian state be timely? Or would you prefer to see the occupied land placed under the supervision of an international force?

[Al-Rifa'i] His Majesty King Husayn has said that Jordan will welcome whatever the PLO decides—an independent Palestinian state, a government-in-exile, or an interim government. The decision, is, by rights, the Palestinian leadership's. We will go along with what they see fit for the occupied land.

[Abu Husayn] Would proclamation of a Palestinian state now be timely?

[Al-Rifa'i] The decision is up to the PLO, after all. We will welcome whatever they decide and extend every possible assistance until the Palestinian people attain their legitimate rights to a state. The responsibility for making decisions regarding Palestinian action is now exclusively the PLO's.

[Abu Husayn] Following the recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks after the Jordanian decision, what is Jordan's opinion on the Palestinian delegation's proposal regarding the political program of the provisional Palestinian government?

[Al-Rifa'i] The Palestinian delegation we spoke with did not propose specific ideas on the declaration of the provisional government. However, it proposed several ideas still under discussion. We informed the Palestinian brothers that Jordan is with them in whatever they decide, be it an independent state, a government-in-exile, or a provisional government. We understood from the Palestinian delegation that what has been proposed is also under discussion by the PLO. Therefore, it is difficult to talk about your interpretations or opinions before you know the general approach of all parties to the conflict.

[Abu Husayn] After recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman you refused to make any statement to journalists. You pointed out that there is nothing new. What does this mean?

[Al-Rifa'i] What happened is that the Palestinian side issued a statement after the talks. The Jordanian side also issued a statement, and the matter was very clear to a point where the two sides' viewpoints were largely similar on all issues. The Jordanian statement included a summary of all that was discussed.

[Abu Husayn] How true are reports that a Jordanian-Palestinian meeting will be held this month to resume what has been discussed after the Jordanian decision?

[Al-Rifa'i] We welcome the Palestinian brothers' visit at any time. However, there are no plans to hold a Jordanian-Palestinian meeting at any set date.

[Abu Husayn] What is the nature of King Husayn's visit to London?

[Al-Rifa'i] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to London was to meet with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and hold talks with her on bilateral relations in particular, and to discuss the Middle East situation and efforts to reactivate the peace process in general in light of the recent Jordanian measures, which give prominence to the PLO role and stress the need to deal with it—especially as it is the basic party to the Arab-Israeli conflict—and its role regarding the Palestine question.

[Abu Husayn] Following the statement that Avraham Tamir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, made in Geneva on the need to recognize the PLO as a national organization, does this call on us to be optimistic and indicate we are on our way to a just peace and to the recognition of Palestinian rights?

[Al-Rifa'i] I believe that to be convened, the international conference must have a special agreement among the United States, the USSR, and the other UN Security Council permanent members. It also requires coordination among the concerned Arab states, including the PLO. The convocation of the international conference necessitates Israel's acceptance of the principles for which the conference should be convened; namely, withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. When all these requirements are secured, then the international conference will be convened.

[Abu Husayn] Is it possible for the international conference to be held this year in light of developments and efforts on the Arab and international levels?

[Al-Rifa'i] I am not in a position to set dates for the international conference. However, as I have said there are requirements and basic factors that must be secured to hold the international conference.

[Abu Husayn] How does Jordan view the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations, and what is your stand on what has been achieved so far?

[Al-Rifa'i] What we see is that Iran accepted Security Council Resolution No 598 as a result of Iraq's military victories in the battlefield. Iran continued to reject the resolution for a full year, but it was forced to accept it and reach a peaceful settlement. What we see also is that Iraq and Iran accepted a cease-fire, but the goal cannot solely be a cease-fire, but should be a solution to all the problems between the two countries and a treaty of peace, peaceful coexistance, good-neighborliness, and noninterference in internal affairs.

Iraq's position on peace is clearly known. It declared its readiness to reach a peaceful settlement even before the adoption of the resolution by the Security Council. Iraq is now responding favorably and seeking to translate this trend into a peace treaty. But Iraq should not be expected to give Iran in the negotiations what it failed to obtain after 8 years of war. We consequently hope that Iran will agree to a rational, acceptable formula and not attempt to score political gains it failed to achieve militarily.

[Abu Husayn] What is the Jordanian role in supporting Iraq at the present time?

[Al-Rifa'i] We support our Iraqi brothers in the battle for peace as we did in wartime. We consider this a pan-Arab duty that we continue to perform. As for negotiations, one cannot possibly imagine that problems resulting from 8 years of war can be solved in 1 or 2 weeks. A settlement process needs some time. The important thing is that Iraq's stand is sound, logical, and in line with the developments. It's aim is to make sure that Iran actually wants a final settlement of the war and is not maneuvering for a cease-fire only.

[Abu Husayn] Can we say that the Iraq-Iran war is actually over with the start of the peace talks between the two countries?

[Al-Rifa'i] A cease-fire in itself does not mean an end to war. The war will be actually over when Iraq and Iran sign a peace treaty.

[Abu Husayn] Mr Prime Minister, when will the dreams of Arab unity materialize?

[Al-Rifa'i] Arab unity is a sacred goal of all Arabs. The day will come when we will see the various Arab countries united and cohesive. It is the unity in all its manifestations—youths, children, men, and women—a political and economic unity, and true integration. We can look at current world blocs. The best example might be the European one. European unity covers different states, peoples, and religions. Thank God, we in the Arab world have a common religion, history, culture, and language. We, therefore, have the grounds, and we have only to develop them to become a cohesive Arab region that deals with the various world regions as one Arab nation, not as individual states.

[Abu Husayn] This leads us to ask about the economic unity plan among six Arab countries as proposed by Jordan.

[Al-Rifa'i] This plan was reported by a news agency. This is a baseless report in so far as the measure itself is concerned, but it is true in so far as our present leanings are concerned. We welcome the idea of economic unity as an inevitable necessity for the Arab world.

American Escapes Kidnapping in Ba'labakk

NC1209140788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] American national Kenneth Paul Wells, 25, escaped being kidnapped in Ba'labakk at dawn today. According to his wife's family, he was then taken to the American Embassy in Damascus.

Wells, who works in Saudi Arabia, was celebrating his wedding to a Lebanese girl from Ba'labakk, named Nadiya Sharaf al-Din. While the couple were on their way to their house after the celebration, three armed men intercepted their car about 20 meters from the house in the center of Ba'labakk. Some members of the wife's family explained that the kidnappers released her a few minutes later, and the American was able to disarm two of the kidnappers.

Reportage on Release of FRG Hostage Cordes

Cordes Writes on Hammadi

NC1209071688 Paris AFP in English 0703 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept 12 (AFP)—An organization holding West German hostage Rudolf Cordes has said he is about to be released, the daily AL-NAHAR reported here on Monday.

A communique issued by the Mujahidin for Freedom said that a representative of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and a West German ambassador should go to the Beaurivage Hotel in Moslem West Beirut, which has been the scene of previous handovers of Western hostages.

The group said that there would be "developments in the next 48 hours" over the release of Mr. Cordes, 54, a sales executive of the Hoechst pharmaceuticals company who was kidnapped on January 17, 1987.

Mr. Cordes said in a letter accompanying the group's statement that he would be released Monday, and asked his government to do everything possible for Muhammad Hammadi, on trial in West Germany for hijacking Trans World Airlines jet in June 1985 and killing an American passenger.

His abductors were expecting action by the West German authorities on Mr. Hammadi's behalf, Mr. Cordes said. He also asked that his family be informed of his pending release.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had said last week he had asked Iran's friends in Lebanon to help free Western hostages held there. The Mujahidin for Freedom is believed to have close ties with the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hizballah organization.

Fifteen Western hostages are currently listed as missing in Lebanon, including nine Americans, two Britons and an Irishman.

RFL Announces Release

NC1209135488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] West German hostage Rudolf Cordes was set free in West Beirut at 1400 today. Citing West German radio, KUNA has said that Cordes left for Damascus upon his release. The Strugglers for Freedom Organization had announced that it would release Cordes in the next 48 hours.

Group Issues Statement

NC1209142888 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sep 12 (AFP)—A group claiming to hold West German hostage Rudolf Cordes, said here Monday that he would be freed within the next 12 hours.

A typed statement delivered to a Western news agency said Mr. Cordes was being freed "at the request of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the Islamic government of Iran."

The statement, written in Arabic in the name of the Mujahidin for Freedom, was received at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT).

Syria, Iran Request Release

NC1209161688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1548 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The kidnappers of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes this afternoon announced that he will be released within the coming 12 hours. The kidnappers, a group calling itself the Strugglers for Freedom, sent a statement to a Western news agency in Beirut saying that the decision had been made at the request of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Kidnappers' State Conditions

NC1209183388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1822 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Kidnappers of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes asserted a short time ago that they will not release him unless the West German and Iranian ambassadors and a representative of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad are present. A statement by the organization holding the hostage, which calls itself the Strugglers for Freedom, said that the aforementioned must announce they will bge present at the fixed place at 2100 today through the media.

West Beirut Meeting Demanded [DPA]

LD1209191988 Hamburg DPA in German 1840 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Beirut (DPA)—In a third announcement, the kidnappers of the Hoechst manager Rudolf Cordes have demanded the presence of the ambassadors of the Federal Republic and Iran as well as that of a representative of the Syrian head of state Hafiz al-Asad in the Beaurivage Hotel in West Beirut as a prerequisite for freeing Cordes. Enclosed with the announcement was a polaroid photograph of Cordes.

The announcement and the photograph were handed to the office of a Western news agency in the Lebanese capital. The kidnappers demanded that the three diplomats be in the hotel before 2000 Central European Summer Time. [1800 GMT] [passage omitted]

FRG Envoy Meets Syrians

LD1200200500 Hamburg DPA in German 1943 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, (DPA)—Shortly after a new message from the kidnappers of FRG citizen Rudolf Cordes, the FRG ambassador in Beirut, Wolfgang Goettelmann, drove this evening to the Beaurivage Hotel in Beirut and spoke for some 10 minutes with Syrian officers. He then drove back to the Christian eastern part of the city.

For the time being, it has not been confirmed whether Iran's ambassador or a representative of Syrian president Hafiz al-Asad were at the hotel. [passage omitted]

DPA on Release

LD1209210688 Hamburg DPA in German 2057 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut (DPA)—The German Rudolf Cordes was handed over this evening by his Shi'ite kidnappers to the Lebanese interior minister in the Muslim western part of Beirut after nearly 20 months as a hostage. This has been confirmed by the Lebanese police.

The police have confirmed that Cordes was released near the Kuwaiti Embassy in the southern suburbs of Beirut. From there he went to a nearby house and telephoned the police. The police took him by jeep to Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi's residence. At the minister's house he received food and drink. Afterward, Cordes drove away with Syrian representatives to an unknown destination. The goal is thought to be the Syrian capital, Damascus.

The convoy of cars, in which Cordes is en route to Damascus, is expected to arrive in the Syrian capital at 0700 Central European Summer Time [0900 GMT]. According to DPA's information, Mrs Cordes has arrived in Bonn and is awaiting the departure of the Bundeswehr aircraft, which is due to collect her husband in Damascus in the morning.

Genscher has expressly thanked Syrian head of state Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Iranian Parliamentary Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for their efforts for the release of the Hoechst manager.

Rudolf Cordes is to be handed over to the Germany Embassy in Damascus.

Cordes Taken to Al-Rasi's Home

NC1209212188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2117 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] West German hostage Rudolf Cordes was released at the Beaurivage Hotel at 2230 tonight and was taken over by the internal security forces. Cordes was transported to the house of Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi at 2335.

FRG Confirms Release

LD1209223088 Hamburg DPA in German 2202 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—A few minutes before midnight the Federal Foreign Ministry confirmed the release of Hoechst manager Rudolf Cordes. Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had been officially notified about this by the Lebanese Government, it was said.

KUNA Reports Defense Minister's Abduction

LD1309104488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1015 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut—Armed men in East Beirut today kidnapped Lebanese Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran and took him to the premises of the Phalangist military council in Al-Karantina area.

Security sources in an urgent contact with KUNA said that unidentified armed men—believed to belong to the Phalangist militia—barred the way while the defense minister was returning from the defense ministry in Al-Yarzah district in East Beirut and took him to the Al-Karantina area where the premises of the Phalangist Militia Headquarters are situated.

Beirut Report

NC1309111088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1034 GMT 13 Sep 8

[Text] Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran was kidnapped by Lebanese Forces gunmen near the Palace of Justice at midday. He was taken to the Lebanese Forces Military Council in Al-Karantina [in East Beirut].

The incident began when the defense minister's car was passing through the Museum area in the direction of East Beirut, near the Buick company building, at approximately 1115 today. A brown Mercedes and an Audi intercepted the car. Two gunmen got out of the Mercedes and into Defense Minister 'Usayran's car near the Palace of Justice.

A source in the internal security forces said that the two gunmen forced the driver to go to the Lebanese Forces Military Council in Al-Karantina. The source added that the defense minister is still there.

As soon as the news spread, Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi chaired an emergency meeting of the command council of the internal security forces to discuss the kidnapping. A statement is expected to be issued later. So far, no official statement has been issued by the Defense Ministry on this subject.

A short while ago, 'Ali 'Usayran, son of the defense minister, arrived at the office of Minister al-Rasi. He is now meeting with Al-Rasi to follow up developments concerning the kidnapping of his father.

VOL on Release

NC1309114788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] We have just been informed that Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran has been released following consultations between certain officials and deputies and the commander of the Lebanese Forces. Minister 'Usayran is now on his way to his home in West Beirut.

Ja'ja' Comments

NC1309120488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Commenting on the detention of Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran, Dr Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces, said: We reject such practices in the eastern areas. We cannot reject similar practices in the occupied areas and not in the liberated areas. He added that Minister 'Usayran is a patriot and an advocate of independence.

It is worth noting that Minister 'Usayran was released at 1430, as we said before, after consultations between a number of deputies and Dr Ja'ja'. Ja'ja' ordered the Lebanese Forces security organ to search for 'Usayran and bring him back. Minister 'Usayran has set off for his home.

Demonstration Closes Beirut Crossing Point

NC1309061688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] This morning, demonstrators tried to proceed toward Mansur Palace [the Chamber of Deputies building on the Green Line] to protest the detention of Deputy Farid Sarhal. As a result, the Museum-Al-Barbir crossing point has been closed, and travel between the two parts of Beirut is still halted.

Al-Husayni Explains Decision on Election Venue

NC1209123688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has expressed the hope that the Chamber of Deputies session for the election of a new president will be held on 22 September, the scheduled date.

In a statement to REUTER news agency a short while ago, Speaker al-Husayni explained that he chose the permanent premises of the Chamber of Deputies to hold the election session because it is a symbol of the country's unity. He said: The unity of the country began there, the danger began there, and the unity of Lebanon must be launched again from there.

Asked whether the fact that three shells had hit the Mansur Palace area had prompted the decision to transfer the venue of the session, Speaker al-Husayni said: This may have been one reason, but there are also other reasons. The unity of Lebanon should be launched from the permanent Chamber of Deputies building.

Birri Speaks on Elections at News Conference

NC1209153388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] In a news conference he held this afternoon, Minister Nabih Birri said that there is no time left for achieving accord before elections are held and there is no danger of Lebanon being partitioned. Commenting on Bkirki [seat of Maronite Patriarchate], he said that Bkirki's moves are against the stream and that it has regrettably proven, along with other leaderships, that it is deceiving the people by favoring Maronitism over Lebanon. Birri pointed out that Syrian-U.S. contacts are continuing and that the second republic will disband all the militias and restore unity to Lebanon. On the government, Birri said that there is no such thing in the Constitution as the so-called transitional government. According to established norms, the president has no right to appoint the head of the new government until after parliamentary and governmental consultations, Birri added.

Lebanese Forces Official on Election Decision

NC1309060288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] A Lebanese Forces official has commented on Al-Husayni's announcement on the election session. He asserted that the decision to hold the election a few hours before the expiration of President Amin al-Jumayyil's term of office is an obvious attempt to hinder the formation of a new government to fill the constitutional vacuum which may be created in the event it proves difficult to elect a new president during the Chamber of Deputies session.

According to the source, Al-Husayni's decision is a trap. The selection of Al-Najmah Square for the session is obvious evidence that the other party intends to torpedo the session.

Dr Tawfiq al-Hindi, political adviser to the Lebanese Forces commander, believes that the choice of the date of the second session raises doubts as to the intention underlying the selection of Al-Najmah Square as the election venue. He said that this is meant to press the deputies into accepting something against their will. Al-Hindi declared that he will hold the Syrians responsible for any failure to hold the election. He revealed that a European initiative will be announced in the next few days in coordination with the United States. He also referred to consultations with Raymond Iddih designed to find a way out of the current awkward position.

Deputies Respond to Restricted Movement Charges

NC1209142088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Answering a question about reports that he was prevented from going to Damascus yesterday, Deputy Joseph Skaf said: We are living in abnormal circumstances these days as a result of the gravity of the situation and the fateful deadline facing Lebanon. As we try to overcome the transient events and harrassments which we face daily—and there is no room now to go into their details—I hope that an agreement will be reached to facilitate the election of a new president of the republic, because this will be indicative of the continued functioning of the insitutions and the continuation of Lebanon as a united country.

The consultations between the fraternal Syria and the United States, he said, will facilitate the process of internal reconciliation in Lebanon. He appealed to the spiritual and all other leaders to appreciate the present delicate situation and to make an effort not to drag Lebanon into the unknown.

Meanwhile, Deputy Jubran Tawq has denied that he had been prevented from going to Bsharri, as some information media reported. There is no truth to this report, he said.

Resistance Rocket Attack Wounds 4 'Agents'

NC1209115888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] National resistance fighters today launched a rocket attack on an agent Lahd militia post in Sujud. Four agents were injured and material damage was sustained as a result.

Resistance, Lahd Militia Operations Reported

NC1209175588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The agent Lahd militia has admitted that four of its members were wounded and taken to the Marj 'Uyun hospital when their positions came under Katyusha and mortar fire. A militia position in Yarin also came under mortar fire. The results could not be determined. Two explosive charges were reportedly detonated this morning near agent Lahd militiamen on the Dayr Siryan and Tayr Harfa roads.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front issued a statement today which said that, since early this morning, groups of the Anwar Yasin comrades from the South Martyrs unit have been engaged in violent battles on the hills of the south, in the areas of Yarin, Tayr Harfa, and Marwahin, in the western sector of southern Lebanon.

At 0700 today, the occupation forces opened artillery fire from the Al-Zaffat position at Humin al-Fawqa. The shelling continued intermittently until 0900. No casualties have been reported.

The occupation forces artillery in the Marj 'Uyun area shelled Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah and the areas of Yuhmur and Al-Dallafah in western Al-Biqa' at 0730 today. The shelling lasted for 30 minutes and caused material damage.

At 0815 today, an agent militia patrol went through the crossing point in Zummarayya, advancing about 3 km into the liberated areas. The patrol reached Mimis pond where it combed the area for 30 minutes and then returned to the Zummarayya position.

Group Claims Attack on Syrian Position

NC1309091488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive device at a Syrian position near the military beach area at midnight last night. Three Syrian soldiers were wounded, according to the organization.

Al-Shar', FRG's Genscher Discuss Cordes Release

JN1209183488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] In a telephone conversation today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his FRG counterpart, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, discussed the release of Rudolf Cordes, the West German hostage held in Lebanon

Al-Shar' Says U.S. 'Backtracked,' 'Miscalculated'

NC1209183188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has made a statement to the media in Nicosia. He said it is still possible to reach a solution to hold presidential elections in Lebanon before 23 September, and added: Nothing is ruled out if the Americans reconsider their stand.

Al-Shar' said: The Americans emphasized in recent months and on several occasions that they do not object to important political reforms in Lebanon to achieve national reconciliation, and they cannot disregard the important constructive role Syria is playing to help Lebanon achieve reconciliation. Suddenly, the Americans backtracked. We believe they miscalculated.

Commentary on Reagan's Call for Meeting

JN0909141588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the recent U.S. move to invite the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel to meet with President Reagan in New York in the presence of Secretary of State George Shultz is no more than a political maneuver of domestic objectives linked with the U.S. presidential elections. This is not the first time U.S. moves were linked to purely domestic U.S. goals or to serve Israeli interests, without actually trying to launch a serious initiative to achieve peace and a just settlement in the Middle East. The new move is clearly rude as its sole aim is to serve the election campaign of the Republican candidate to succeed President Reagan at the White House. That is, any statement or declaration after this meeting will not boost the settlement process in the Middle East, but will address a segment of voters—namely, the American Jews—to attract their votes toward candidate George Bush.

Therefore, the invitation for this meeting was not received with enthusiasm from any parties concerned about a settlement. Negative reaction to it was confined to those who will possibly be harmed by it, namely, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir—who saw the call as a political game that serves Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, his rival in the upcoming Israeli elections—and U.S. Democratic candidate Dukakis—who did not lack the means to respond to Reagan's maneuver by raising the bid to buy the votes of American Jews through further promises, pledges, and obligations toward Israel. But how does Reagan want to exploit this meeting to attract the votes of American Jews in the interest of his party colleague George Bush?

The declared objective for the meeting of the U.S. president with 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Shim'on Peres at the end of this month is to revive the initiative of George Shultz after the escalation of the uprising in the occupied territory. This initiative is to save Israel from its impasse and encircle the uprising by granting the Palestinians an amount of illusionary self-rule inside the occupied territories before negotiating the final status of these territories. However, this initiative—launched at the beginning of this year—did not achieve any progress despite Shultz' many shuttle tours of the region to boost it. The Reagan administration's inability to achieve anything to save Israel from the impasse could open it for criticism by the Democrats and their candidate Dukakis and, consequently, could attract the votes of American Jews toward the Democrats. Therefore, with the start of the uprising's 10th month, Reagan wanted to fill any gap that negatively affects the chances of Vice President Bush's being elected. Hence came the call for the tripartite meeting in New York to suggest that the initiative that was launched at the beginning of this year is still dead [as heard] and that it can yield results if the Republicans stay in power through George Bush.

Within this context, we must wonder about the interest of the Egyptian regime in Reagan's domestic political maneuver. If Shim'on Peres has a political interest similar to Reagan's—hoping to exploit the meeting to improve his party's chances of winning the forthcoming Israeli elections—it is almost impossible to detect any direct political interest on the part of the Egyptian regime to join this solely political maneuver. The answer to this question lies in knowing that since the signing of the Camp David accords, the Egyptian regime has a role to play and it cannot fail to show up any time it is summoned, even if the aim is a political maneuver with specific goals and would never result in a settlement process.

Finally, what is called the new U.S. move proves once again Washington's lack of seriousness in dealing with the Mideast issue and the absence of a consistent U.S. policy on securing a peaceful and just solution to this issue.

Afghanistan

Wakil Meets Cypriot President, Other Officials

LD1109221188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] His Excellency Yeoryios Vasiliou, the president of Cyprus, received Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil on 9 September in Nicosia. At the beginning of the reception, the Afghan foreign minister conveyed regards and good wishes from esteemed Afghan president Najibullah to the president of Cyprus. In response, the president of Cyprus sent his regards and good wishes to the president of Afghanistan. During the meeting, the Afghan foreign minister expressed his pleasure at the convening of the Nonaligned Movement ministers conference and the significance of Cyprus' role in the Nonalignment Movement. He informed the president of Cyprus of the recent developments in the situation in and around Afghanistan, the implementation of the Geneva accords, and the progress of the national reconciliation policy.

In response, the president of Cyprus expressed his country's support for the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan. He said he hoped that peace and stability would be restored to the country and the region through the implementation of national reconciliation and the Geneva accords. The Afghan foreign minister also met separately with the foreign ministers of Libya, Algeria, Indonesia, Yugoslavia, Nicaragua, Ghana, and Jordan, as well as the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs.

During the meetings the implementation of the Geneva accords, the Afghan Government's measures to maintain peace and stability in and around Afghanistan, and the recent developments in Afghanistan were discussed. They also exchanged views on bilateral relations and important regional and international issues.

UN Human Rights Delegation Arrives

LD1109213788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] His Excellency Professor Ermacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission, today arrived in Kabul leading a delegation charged with preparing a report on human rights in Afghanistan. The delegation was met at the Kabul international airport by responsible UN officials in Kabul and Foreign Ministry officials, including the official in charge of publicity and the deputy head of protocol.

Foreign Ministry Assistant ('Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal) met with His Excellency Ermacora this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry. They discussed Afghanistan's measures for implementing the Geneva accords, the gains of the national reconciliation policy, and the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

During his stay in Afghanistan, Professor Ermacora will meet relevant departments and authorities in order to prepare his report.

79th Memorandum Delivered to UN Mission

LD1109214688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's liaison office with UNGOMAP [UN Good Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that Memorandum No 79 was given to the mission's office in Kabul this evening. The memorandum lists seven Pakistani violations of Article II, Document I of the Geneva accords.

UNGOMAP has been asked to investigate the violations in accordance with Article VII of Document IV of the Geneva accords and report its findings to Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative.

80th Memorandum Filed

LD1309091088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry office for coordination with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan reports that this afternoon, 12 September, the 80th memorandum of the Republic of Afghanistan on Pakistan's blatant violations of the Geneva accords was handed to UNGOMAP in Kabul.

The memorandum gives accurate and comprehensive information on five cases of blatant violations by Pakistan of Document I, Article 2, of the Geneva accords. It requests that the cases of violation mentioned in the note be investigated, and that the Afghan authorities and the UN secretary general's envoy be informed of the result.

10 Killed, 22 Injured in Kabul Explosion

LD1109162888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Excerpt] A number of our compatriots were killed and injured when a Volga car bomb, planted by the extremists, exploded opposite Afghan Kart [as heard] this afternoon in Shahr-e Now, Kabul city. Ten people, including women and children, were martyred and another 22 were badly injured in the extremists' treacherous action. Security forces personnel took the injured to the city's health centers.

The Afghan Kart building also caught fire in the explosion, but the fire brigade put it out. Forty shops and 10 vehicles were also destroyed in the explosion. The exact damage caused by this incident will be published later. [passage omitted]

'Subversive Extremists' Crushed in Provinces

LD1009181488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] BAKHTAR military section reports that on 7 September the country's border forces crushed a group of subversive extremists attached to the Gulbuddin band, who were trying to disrupt peace and security in Shindand District, Herat Province. As a result of the activity in Chahar Mahal region of this district 25 saboteurs including Ghulam Faruq, ringleader of this group, were crushed and another 38 men were seriously injured.

The report adds that during this operation 8 light weapons, 10 surface-to-surface missiles, 20 rockets, 11 boxes of ammunition for various weapons, 60 handgrenades, 9 anti-vehicle mines, and 6 kg of explosives were seized. One mortar, one recoilless gun, and one rocket launcher were destroyed.

According to another report a group of armed extremists was crushed in (Mirbazar) region of Qandahar Province. As a result of these blows 20 extremists were crushed and 35 men were seriously injured. Ten weapons of the armed extremists including one mortar, one recoilless gun, and one DShK were destroyed.

Another report from Paktia Province says that a number of extremist elements who were disrupting peace and security in the environs of Seyyed Karam District of this province by launching surface-to-surface missiles were recently crushed. During this operation in (Zargol Ghar) region of this district three extremists were crushed and seven men were seriously injured. A BM-1 missile launcher made in the united states was also destroyed.

During another combat operation in the surroundings of Zormat District on 4 September two ringleaders of the Gulbuddin band, Hamidullah and Wali Gol, were crushed. In this operation 6 warmongers were also crushed and 15 were injured. Several of their hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report a number of warmongers who crossed the border to wage war and bloodshed in the surroundings of Asmar District, Konarha Province, were crushed as a result of blows inflicted by the Armed Forces. During this operation three extremist elements were eliminated and dozens of them were injured. Dozens of weapons including one recoilless gun were destroyed.

Mujahidin Say 500 Killed in Spin Buldak Bombing

BK1109122088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1212 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 11 (AFP)—Some 500 people were killed when Afghan war planes bombed the southeastern Afghanistan town of Spin Buldak, which had fallen to mujahidin rebels, a rebel spokesman said here Sunday.

'Azim Nasik Zia of of a moderate traditionalist National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) quoted witnesses in Spin Buldak, eight kilometers from the Pakistan border, as saying that those killed included mujahidin and civilians.

"Bodies are lying like goats or sheep slaughtered en masse," Mr 'Azim told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

NIFA chief Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, the current chairman of the seven party rebel alliance, returned to Islamabad Sunday after going to Quetta to study the situation, Mr 'Azim said.

The spokesman did not give the exact toll of rebels and militia troops killed in the bombing, which he said began late Friday.

One report said at least 50 mujahidin were among those killed in raids described as "carpet bombing."

Spin Buldak fell to the rebels Friday after about 1,000 government troops and militia forces surrendered to the resistance.

The garrison town had a population of 20,000 people before the Soviet invasion in 1979, but it has dwindled to between 3,000 and 4,000 in the past few months.

Press reports said the mujahidin have established their own administration and summarily executed at least seven government officers and agents of the KHAD secret police who were arrested after the troops gave up fighting.

The nearby supply road between Chaman and Qandahar, Afghanistan's second-largest city, "is now under full control of mujahidin," Mr 'Azim said.

He said troops of government militia commander Esmatullah Muslim have joined the mujahidin. General Muslim, a former rebel who defected to the government, abandoned his troops in Spin Buldak last week and is now reportedly in Kabul, Mr 'Azim added.

The Afghan and Soviet forces had warned that any major city or town which fell to the resistance would be subjected to heavy bombardment, Western diplomats here said.

Similar bombings took place in Qalat, Maidan Shahr and Konduz after rebels seized control of the provincial capitals.

In Konduz Soviet aircraft from bases in the Soviet Union joined air raids to restore the Kabul regime's control of the bordering city, according to reports.

The bombardment of Spin Buldak was aimed at flushing out guerrillas, the spokesman said. But he added that "it is now impossible for the government troops to re-establish control" of the garrison town.

Fighting Continues in Qandahar, Helmand

BK1209024088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Reports of fighting have been received of from Qandahar city where the mujahidin have been increasing their pressure, particularly after capturing Spin Buldak on last Friday [9 September]. The mujahidin captured the military base in Spin Buldak last Friday. They attacked the Afghan secret police KHAD targets in the Qandahar town and killed several KHAD personnel and destroyed a vehicle. Kabul radio in a broadcast acknowledged the attack and said that the mujahidin had entered the town on Saturday. But the radio claimed that the mujahidin were forced to retreat.

The mujahidin also attacked Lashkar Gah, capital of the Helmand Province, and destroyed a military post there. At least eight soldiers of the Kabul regime were killed. Continued fighting is also reported from around Konduz and Gardeyz.

Mujahidin Pressure Increases in Qandahar

BK1309023088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have increased their pressure on Qandahar in spite of Kabul regime troop reinforcements. Thousands of commandos, paratroopers, and Afghan secret service KHAD units have arrived in the region to prevent a mujahidin occupation of Qandahar. The operation follows reports of a mujahidin link-up with local military commanders to save citizens' lives. The mujahidin control half of Qandahar and the remaining half is controlled by the Kabul administration. Meanwhile, the mujahidin have taken control of (Kachgai) and its dam, from which electricity is supplied to Qandahar. Mujahidin also occupy Maiwand city of Qandahar Province.

Mujahidin Activity in Paghman, Lowgar, Helmand

BK1209162988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have achieved further successes in their operations against the Kabul regime forces in various parts of the country. They are reported to have conducted (?many) operations near Paghman, killing at least 30 Kabul soldiers. Three posts and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were also captured during these operations.

The mujahidin are also reported to have killed eight Kabul soldiers, including an officer, in a major attack on a security post near (Poloman) in the Lowgar Valley. A tank and a military truck were destroyed, while the building of the security post was damaged during the attack.

According to another report, the mujahidin launched a surprise attack on the 971 Border Battalion at (Sohrab) in Helmand Province and captured all soldiers of the battalion along with their arms and ammunition.

Kabul Forces Convoy Attacked Near Ghazni

BK1309111388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have attacked a military convoy near Moqor, about 100 km from Ghazni, inflicting heavy losses in men and material on Kabul regime forces. The convoy, which was on its way from Ghazni to Qandahar, had to retreat after suffering losses. Five mujahidin were also martyred in the attack.

Bangladesh

President Briefs Journalists on Flood Situation

BK1209112388 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has said that the worst floods in the living memory of the century now sweeping Bangladesh have caused colossal destruction of crops, property, and infrastructures. He was briefing foreign journalists now in the capital and the Bangladeshi nationals representing foreign media at Banga Bhavan today. The president said the damage and destruction is so great that its dimension has yet to be accurately determined.

According to preliminary estimates, three-fourths of Bangladesh, that is 53 out of 64 districts, have been inundated, affecting nearly 30 million people. About 8 million houses have been damaged. Crops on 3.5 million acres of land amounting to roughly 3 million tons have been washed away. An exact picture can only emerge after the water recedes from the affected areas.

The Bangladesh president said apart from the government machinery, people from all walks of life as well as socio-cultural and voluntary organizations have responded to the president's call in aiding the distressed people. Generous contributions are being made to the president's relief fund everyday. The president noted with satisfaction that the entire nation has geared itself to meet this gigantic challenge.

President Ershad said friendly nations all over the world have expressed their solidarity with Bangladesh in this hour of distress. Apart from sending messages of sympathy, they have made generous commitments of assistance for the flood victims. The United States has announced $150 million as emergency flood assistance. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has provided substantial relief materials and logistic support. Japan, Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Australia, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Kuwait, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, and many other countries have come forward with assistance. The UN secretary general has already appointed a representative to coordinate multilateral relief assistance to Bangladesh.

The president described the international response as prompt and timely. The international help so far received amounts to $280 million.

The Bangladesh president said in view of the gravity of the situation, he has proposed a meeting of experts of the SAARC countries to consider steps for solving the problem of floods in the region.

Situation Improves; China Sending Helicopters

BK1209163988 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Reports received from various parts of the country indicate that the overall flood situation has continued to improve with slight deterioration in some areas. In Dinajpur, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail, Khairpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj, and Dhaka, the situation is improving with the gradual recession of waters from the affected areas. The situation is also improving in the capital.

The Bangladesh railway resumed its train services between Dinajpur and Panchagarh today after the recession of water from the railway tracks. Road communications between Rajshahi and Japai Nawabganj and between Dhaka-Ghazipur were also restored today. (?Train) service between (Arikacachar) and Daulatia has also been restored. But the flood situation in Habiganj, Barisal, Brahmanbaria, Comilla, and Pabna, and Nodhar is still serious. [passage omitted]

China is sending three helicopters and one transport plane for relief work. The transport plane is also carrying relief goods for the flood victims. It is for the first time China is sending helicopters and transport plane to a foreign country as a mark of goodwill.

Iran

Relations With U.S. Reportedly To Resume in Oct

JN1209165488 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 11 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—Arab diplomatic circles in the Jordanian capital have circulated information attributed to U.S. sources close to the leadership of Vice President George Bush's election campaign. The information is as follows:

Sometime in October, European and U.S. hostages held in Lebanon by groups known to be close to or linked with Iran will be freed. In the same month, the restoration of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Washington will be announced. British diplomat David Reddaway, currently in Tehran, played a basic role in paving the way for the restoration of U.S.-Iranian relations. Diplomatic relations between London and Damascus may be restored in the same month, October, or perhaps before it.

Before announcing the resumption of relations with Tehran, the U.S. Administration will announce a reduction of its forces in the Gulf so that they become almost equal in size to the British force in the Gulf.

After restoring U.S.-Iranian relations and releasing the hostages, internal crisis in Iran will escalate leading to the resignation of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Ayatollah Montazeri's demand for the dissolution of the Majlis and the interaction of the government will become stronger leading to choosing 'Izzatollah Sahabi [name as published] as prime minister to succeed Musavi.

According to this information, which is attributed to primary U.S. sources, Iranian procrastination in the peace negotiations in Geneva may continue until the time of the U.S. presidential elections—a time that coincides with the completion of the aformentioned short-term changes in Tehran political faces.

3 Ministers Get No-Confidence Vote

LD1209170388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] According to a report by the Public Relations Department of the Majlis, debates about holding a vote of confidence on cabinet members continued today in the Majlis. In this open session, after speeches by some of the ministers, voting took place by written paper and after counting, the results were announced as follows:

Mohammad Gharazi, 210 votes; 'Ali Reza Marandi, 124 votes; Behzad Nabavi, 128 votes; Gholam Reza Shafe'i, 134 votes; Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi, 186 votes; Mohammad Javad Iravani, 175 votes; 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, 133 votes; Mohammad Farhadi, 176 votes; Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, 164 votes; Abdol Qasem Sarhaddizadeh, 133 votes; 'Ali Akbar Velayati, 225 votes; Mohammad Khatami, 175 votes; Seraj-ol din Kazeruni, 127 votes; Hasan Ibrahimi Habibi, 216 votes; Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, 138 votes; Sa'di Kya, 166 votes; Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani, 192 votes; and Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, 154 votes.

From the total of 21 ministers put forward, 18 of them obtained a vote of confidence from the Majlis, and the votes of three ministers did not reach the required threshold. These were: Mohsen Rafiqdust, Kazem Akrami and 'Abbas 'Ali Zali.

3 Nominated as Ministers

LD1209180688 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Eighteen of the 21 ministers introduced by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to the Majlis (parliament), gained necessary votes, while the remaining three failed.

Those who gained approval included Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati topping wth 225 votes and Dr. 'Ali Reza Marandi who just managed to scrape through with 124 votes.

IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, Education Minister Kazim Akrami and Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali did not gain sufficient votes, therefore, Premier Musavi's cabinet has now six vacant seats.

Qolam Reza Foruzesh, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh and Majid Hedayat-Zadeh have been proposed by the premier to Majlis for Construction Jihad, Energy and Commerce Ministries respectively. Majlis will debate their competency on Tuesday.

Each minister should gain half plus one votes from Majlis members in attendance in order to pass. The parliament has 270 seats of whom some are still vacant and will be filled during by-elections to be held in autumn.

Talks With Iraq in Geneva To Continue 13 Sep

LD1209135188 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 12, IRNA—Foreign Ministers of Iran and Iraq are scheduled to resume their third plenary session at 13:00 hours tomorrow, it was announced here today by the U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut.

Earlier in the day Gastaut told reporters that there was "distinct possibility" the ministerial meeting would take place today.

As talks are prolonged here over agreement on the venue and timing of the next round of the peace talks, diplomatic sources said it was likely for the two foreign ministers to go to New York for some sort of consultation with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar an then come back to Geneva to finalize the issue.

New 'Secret' Peace Proposals

JN1209082188 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Sep 88 pp 1, 13

[Text] Paris, AL-QABAS—Well informed Western diplomatic sources have revealed to AL-QABAS the content of secret Iranian proposals submitted to international mediator Jan Eliasson and to some major powers. These proposals aim, according to Iranian officials, to end the deadlock in the Geneva talks. These sources said that the new Iranian proposals do not comply with the Iraqi demands and are not enough to achieve any progress in the Geneva talks. Meanwhile, AL-QABAS has learned that Iranian officials are currently holding contacts with some major powers in order to persuade the Security Council to give more powers to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to enable him to set a timetable to implement Security Council Resolution No 598

Let us begin with the new secret Iranian proposals. AL-QABAS learned from Western diplomatic sources, which are well informed of what is going on in Geneva, that the Iranian delegation to the talks, which is headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has submitted to international mediator Jan Eliasson the following new proposals which aim, according to the Iranian viewpoint, to get the talks moving:

1. Iran is ready to agree to guarantee full freedom of shipping for Iraqi ships in the Shatt al-'Arab and in the Strait of Hormuz. It will agree not to intercept them in return for Iraq's withdrawal of all of its troops from Iranian territories within a short period of time.

2. Iran is ready to accept the dispatch of a team of UN experts and engineers to the Shatt al-'Arab to prepare a study on dredging this waterway. However, Iran rejects Iraqi demands that the United Nations and the international community guarantee the clearing of the Shatt al-'Arab. In this respect, the Iranians said that their acceptance of the Iraqi demands means abandoning the 1975 Algiers agreement, which states in one of the protocols attached to it, that Iraq and Iran will carry out a common survey of the Shatt al-'Arab once every 10 years. This means that they will clear this waterway.

3. Iran adheres to the Algiers agreement. It is not ready to sign any new border agreement between the two countries. It also adheres to dividing the Shatt al-'Arab and is not willing to accept that this waterway must be under Iraqi sovereignty. The Iranians stressed that the Shatt al-'Arab is also a vital waterway for Iran.

In their contacts, the Iranians have made it clear that these proposals form the maximum limits of Iran's offers at this stage of the negotiations.

The informed Western sources told AL-QABAS that these Iranian proposals do not comply with the Iraqi demands and that Iraq rejects them for the following reasons:

1. Iraq refuses to barter the freedom of shipping for the withdrawal of troops to the international borders. It also refuses to link the two issues. Iraq believes that Resolution No 598 must be implemented step by step and clause by clause. Therefore a full understanding of the cease-fire, on land, at sea and in the air, must be

achieved at the beginning. This must include the freedom of shipping and international commitment to clear the Shatt al-'Arab. After agreement is reached on this subject, the withdrawal of troops to the international borders can be discussed.

2. The Iraqi side believes that sending a team of international experts and engineers to study the dredging of the Shatt al-'Arab is not enough in itself. It must be accompanied by an international commitment to clear this waterway so that it becomes fit for shipping. International commitment does not mean that the United Nations and the international community will finance the operation on their own. Iraq and other Arab states are ready to contribute toward financing this operation.

3. The Iraqi side understands that the Iranian delegation has submitted these proposals in an attempt to consolidate the Algiers agreement on the basis that this agreement defined the international borders between the two countries both on land and in the Shatt al-'Arab. This is totally rejected by Iraq, which calls for a new border agreement with Iran. It also calls for full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab.

In this context, AL-QABAS learned from informed Western diplomatic sources that during his talks in Paris the day before yesterday Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani asked French officials to persuade the Security Council to give more powers to UN Security General Perez de Cuellar enabling him to create a breakthrough in the Geneva peace talks as France is chairing the meetings of the Security Council this month.

Larijani explained that these powers, which were requested to be given to Perez de Cuellar, aim to enable the secretary general to achieve two main things:

1. To finally consolidate the cease-fire on land and in the air.

2. To set a fixed timetable to discuss each clause of Resolution No 598 and to adhere to this text.

Al-QABAS learned that Iranian officials submitted this request to other member states of the Security Council. By this demand, the Iranians want Perez de Cuellar to force Iraq to implement the clauses of Resolution No 598, particularly those connected with the cease-fire, troop withdrawal, and exchange of POW's.

In a dispatch from Paris, AL-QABAS revealed in its issue of 6 September that a secret battle is taking place over the role and powers of Perez de Cuellar, and that Iran wants Perez de Cuellar to play a major and wider role in the negotiations, while Iraq wants him to play only the role of a mediator and not to attempt to impose certain ideas and trends on either side.

Eliasson Holds Informal Talks

LD1209120088 Tehran IRNA in English 1117 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 12, IRNA—U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut said here at noon today that the U.N. mediator in the Iraq-Iran war Jan Eliasson "has been pursuing consultations, including informal contacts with Iranian and Iraqi delegations."

Addressing reporters in her mid-day briefing at the press room, Gastaut also said there was "distinct possibility" that there will be a ministerial meeting today.

The third plenary session between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq was held for the first time under the auspices of Jan Eliasson, the U.N. secretary general's personal representative Saturday. The meeting, excluding a 2 ½ hour break, lasted for about three hours but no agreement was reached.

When the ministerial meeting was convened Saturday evening it was believed the outcome would be an annoucement by Eliasson on the timing of a new venue of the talks in New York under direct supervision of Javier Perez de Cuellar. But Iraq insists the negotiations should continue in Geneva.

With international pressure mounting on the Baghdad government for its horrible massacre of its Kurdish population including the use of chemical weapons against them, it is very natural for Iraq to refuse to go to New York where the pressure on it will be even more.

Condemning Iraq's "unjustifiable" and "abhorrent" use of chemical weapons, the U.S. Senate is reportedly considering some economic and military sanctions against Baghdad.

Lavasani Denies Iraqi Explusion Sought

LD0909174288 Tehran IRNA in English 1308 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Nicosia, Sep. 9 OANA-IRNA—An Iranian diplomat has denied a rumor circulating here that Iran will call for the expulsion of Iraq from the Non-Aligned Movement, and called it "a big joke."

The head of the Iranian delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Relations Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani is to speak at the plenary session of the non-aligned foreign ministers conference Friday afternoon or Saturday.

Commentary on Result of GCC Meeting in Riyadh

LD1109124788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The desire of the Gulf Cooperation Council to improve relations with Iran is the title of our first political commentary.

The other day, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs arrived in Tehran for a brief visit. He held talks with a number of officials of our country. The purpose of this brief visit was to submit a report on the recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the member-states of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Last week foreign ministers of the six member-states of this council assembled in Riyadh to deliberate the most import item on the agenda of the meeting—the cease-fire in the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran.

Following the meeting, it was announced that delegations will be dispatched by the council to Tehran and Baghdad. The speedy dispatch of the delegation to Tehran is an indication of the desire of the Gulf Cooperation Council to improve relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Over the past years relations between the member-states of the council and our country have been diversified; while Oman and the UAE maintained their relations under any condition, the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes went so far as to sever relations and invite foreign forces into the Persian Gulf region. The agonizing event of the slaughter of pilgrims in the hajj ceremonies last year bore witness to the serious animosity of the Saudi regime toward the Islamic revolution of Iran. It was also regarded as a blatant affront to Islamic beliefs and normal principles in relations between the two countries.

On the other hand, along with the Saudi regime, the Kuwaiti Government continued its expansive economic and logistics support for the Iraqi regime. It also opened the way for the entry of foreign navies to the Persian Gulf in an effort to strengthen the military position of the Iraqi regime. Such a policy by the Kuwaiti Government inflicted irreparable damage on the interests of the Muslim people of the region. It was the source of agonizing events such as the downing of the Iranian passenger aircraft by the U.S. Navy.

Despite such policies, the Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously invited the countries on the southern coast of the Persian Gulf to begin cooperation. This is because a speedy solution to the problems of the region and lasting peace can be achieved through cooperation among the governments.

Following the acceptance by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the UN Security Council Resolution No 598, the member-states of the cooperation council are demonstrating their desire to repair and improve their relations with our country. The visit of the Omani team to Tehran soon after the conclusion of the foreign ministers' meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council clearly displays such an inclination.

If the Gulf Cooperation Council want to, then it must decide to compensate us for its previous behavior. And it must acquire an active role in the peace trend. Some of the member-states of the council were among the strongest supporters of the Iraqi regime during the inmposed war. If these member-states, rather than following their previous policies, employ their resources and powers to put pressure on Iraq to accept a lasting and just peace, they will have taken right and positive steps.

IAEA Delegation To Investigate Bushehr Attack

LD0909212788 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA—A delegation from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), headed by Mr. Gurpinar arrived here Friday at the invitation of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) to investigate Iraqi air attacks on the Bushehr nuclear plant.

The delegation was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) Reza Amrollahi.

Amrollahi told reporters the delegation is here at the invitation of the Islamic Republic and approval of the IAEA board of governors despite strong opposition of the Iraqi regime.

Iraqi warplanes have bombed the Bushehr nuclear plant in southern Iran several times since the start of the war in contravention of IAEA resolutions which explicitly ban any attacks on and military threats to nuclear installations.

The IAEO head also expressed regret over the refusal of the international agency to condemn Iraq or suspend its membership in that organization for its attacks on Iran's nuclear plant which were carried out in blatant violation of IAEA regulations.

He said the IAEA fact-finding team is scheduled to visit the Bushehr nuclear plant and file a report on Iraqi air attacks on the plant for U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the U.N. General Assembly.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on Iraqi Aggression

LD0909124388 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 9 Sep 88

["Iraqi Aggression Exposed Enemies of Humanity"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA—Those who have closely followed developments of the Iraqi-imposed war during the past eight years acknowledge today that the aggression in fact was a "calculated and organized world war" against an aroused Muslim nation, said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

The Persian daily in its weekly analysis Thursday [8 September] noted that all the "enemies of humanity and human values", despite their internal bickerings and animosities ganged up against a valiant people and a revolution based on humanitarian principles. But alas, by doing so they only incurred on themselves "eternal damnation" and betrayed to the whole world how profound their enmity towards humanity and the values dear to human-beings can be.

According to them, the "great sin" of Iran's Muslims during the past decade has been and still is their firm resolve to keep at bay the devilish domination of global arrogance by following a policy of neither East nor West. They (the Iranian people) are too proud to accept the ignominy of dependence and subjugation under the claws of West and East.

Although this bold policy conjures up a beautiful meaning in the reasoning of humanity and is considered a lofty human principle, yet this same virtue is an "unforgiveable crime" in the eyes of the oppressors, who believe the Iranian people should be subjected to pressure for being reasonable.

How absurd and illogical is the reasoning of Iraq's "inhuman" advocates who despite the Ba'thist regime's blackened record of crimes and massacres have continued to beef up the aggressor at the expense of the victim (Iran).

Throughout the imposed-war and in parallel with its crimes, the Iraqi regime always made it a point to publicize its peace-loving pretentions, thinking that it will never lose this "effective" weapon. But Iran's timely acceptance of Resolution 598 caught the Iraqi regime and its supporters on the wrong foot so much so that they found themselves in an awkward situation unable to voice their loud-mouthed claims of "peace" any more.

All agree that Iraq is blocking the progress of Geneva peace talks because it has nothing to say and the mask under which it had tried to conceal its real nature has been abruptly torn apart following Iran's historic move.

However, one should not forget that the Iraqi delegation in Geneva seems totally devoid of any authority to take positive stands, and needs constant orders from Baghdad for virtually each and everything.

The issue became more obvious last week when the Iraqi delegation in Geneva lacking any authority even to follow up discussions, hastily despatched two of its members to Baghdad for necessary orders. On their return, their stereotyped instructions, as expected, turned out to be totally insufficient to move the peace talks ahead.

The fact is, "peace-loving" Baghdad has realized the painful truth that the only loser of the peace talks is the Ba'thist regime itself and if negotiations proceed and bear results, the next stages (of talks) are certainly to the detriment of the "aggressor". Therefore, Iraq, desparate to prevent justice from taking its course, is trying every trick up its sleeve to kill time and push the talks into a deadlock.

This is what Iraq is scheming to do. But it is for the U.N. secretary general and his representative at the talks who are eye-witness to the whole scenario to take proper and courageous stand against Iraqi plots so that Baghdad would not stand a chance to put new obstacles in the path of peace.

By killing time at Geneva, Baghdad has another sinister goal, that is the annihilation of Kurds in northern Iraq. Reports reaching from Kurdish populated northern Iraq indicate that the regime has stepped up its genocide by deploying the internationally banned chemical weapons against whole villages.

On the other hand, it has erected a "wall of fire" all along its 1350-km border with Turkey in order to prevent the persecuted Kurds from fleeing to that country. Baghdad fears that eye-witness accounts of its latest crimes if know to the outside world will make its shaky position more precarious.

Simultaneous with its systematic genocide, the Iraqi regime has declared a "general amnesty" for Kurds in the hope of deceiving them once again and luring back the estimated 150,000 refugees from Turkey with the assistance of the Ankara government. This, according to political observers, is a calculated step in Baghdad's designs to complete the total subjugation or "annihilation" of the Kurdish people in Iraq.

Turkish Official Arrives for Economic Talks

LD0909214388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Mr Yusuf Ozal, the Turkish finance minister, [title as heard], arrived in Tehran this afternoon. He was welcomed by our country's heavy industries minister and commerce ministry foreign trade under secretary.

He has come to Iran with an economic delegation, and in an interview with reporters he stressed the importance of expanding economic ties between Iran and Turkey. He said: considering the present favorable situation and the declaration of a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, Iran and turkey can invest in several fields, such as agricultural, industrial, commercial, and oil and raise the level of mutual trade.

Ozal Begins Tehran Contacts

TA1009175288 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] State Minister Yusuf Bozkurt Ozal, who is in Tehran as the official guest of Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi, has begun his official contacts. Metin Cambaz reports from Tehran:

[Begin recording] After the meeting of the two ministers this morning, the two delegations met and began their work. Addressing the meeting, Ozal said that Turkey pursued a policy of active impartiality even prior to the cease-fire and continued its ties of friendship with Iran. He added that now Turkey intends to further develop these relations. Ozal noted that the issues which had been taken up at the joint economic committee meetings held in Tehran some 5 to 6 months ago should be reassessed in view of the new conditions created in the aftermath of the cease-fire.

Also addressing the meeting, Nabavi said that one cannot expect, in the very near future, to sign protocols in connection with the contacts being held by the Turkish delegation and businessmen currently in Tehran. He added, however, that these contacts are extremely important from the viewpoint of creating a foundation for future cooperation. Noting that rumors to the effect that Iran's developing relations with the West will adversely affect relations with Turkey are unfounded and erroneous, Nabavi said that Iran has strategic and long term relations with Turkey. He added: Now that the cease-fire is signed, we will never forget our friends who maintained beneficial ties of cooperation with us during the worst periods of the war. He concluded by saying that Iran is determined to conclude the cease-fire with a lasting and honorable peace.

After these speeches, committees and subcommittees in various fields were set up at the meeting. The Turkish-Iranian trade volume and cooperation were also discussed at the meeting. The delegations will meet again tomorrow.

Ozal later met with the Iranian deputy minister of commerce and the Iranian petroleum minister. Meanwhile, a delegation of over 100 Turkish businessmen headed by Ali Coskun, the chairman of the Turkish Union of Chambers, is holding contacts with Iranian officials. Ozal will return to Turkey on 12 September after having attended the opening of the international Tehran fair. [end recording]

Talks With Petroleum Minister

LD1009190588 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA—Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal met oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday and discussed with him the progress of Iran-Turkey joint eco-petroleum protocol and other projects between the two countries.

In the meeting, the two ministers also reviewed the proposed gas pipeline to Turkey, hire of drilling rigs and technical cooperation in the field of petrochemical installations.

The two sides also considered as positive the joint construction of a power plant in eastern Turkey as well as promotion of technical contract services in different fields, and it was decided that the joint economic commission and related committees follow the projects. Ozal arrived here on Friday.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1109181388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Yusuf Ozal, Turkey's economic affairs minister, and his delegation met with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief at the Majlis this afternoon.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the minister of heavy industries and the ambassadors of the two countries, Ozal conveyed the sincere greetings of the Turkish leaders and the speaker of the Turkish Parliament, and praised Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598. He said: We believe that Iran sincerely wants peace. We shall do what we can to help achieve peace.

Referring to conditions in northern Iraq, he said: There are at present 80,000 Iraqi Kurds in Turkey. We have provided them with food and hygiene facilities. We shall do what we can to help these innocent people.

Finally, Ozal called for the expansion of mutual relations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to the peace talks and to the Iraqi regime's excuses and suspicious behavior. He said: We are serious about peace. We want true peace, but we are not prepared to go beyond the framework of Resolution 598. We consider the 1975 accord to be valid and we are not prepared to see any changes made to it.

Expressing regret over the pressure exerted on the northern Iraqi Kurds and the injustices committed against them, he said: These people, God's creatures, are perhaps the most innocent people in the region. They have been subjected to the wrath and genocidal policy of the Iraqi Ba'thist party for many years. Thousands of their villages have been destroyed and their people have either escaped to Iran or to Turkey, or have been killed by chemical weapons of the Iraqi regime. I declare that Iran will not begrudge these dear ones any assistance. I ask the Turkish leaders to help them in any way possible.

Holds Meeting With Musavi

NC1209063088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Mr Yusuf Ozal, Turkey's minister of state for economic affairs, who is currently in Tehran to participate in the annual Iranian-Turkish joint commission, met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi yesterday evening. During the meeting, the Turkish minister of state said he was pleased at the results of his talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed the hope that the ties between the two countries would continue to expand.

Referring to the trilateral cooperation of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, which is being carried out within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], Mr Ozal proposed that the ECO Supreme Council should henceforth continue its deliberations at ministerial level in order to accelerate the pace of its activities. According to the Central News Unit, our prime minister stressed the importance of the economic ties between Iran and Turkey and said: It is natural that after the war we should be able to function better where the broadening of relations is concerned. On the role of the ECO as a potential nucleus for a future Islamic common market, Mr Musavi welcomed the proposal for upgrading the ECO Supreme Council members to ministerial level and added: We have numerous similarities in our culture and several interests in common which can assist in strengthening our cooperation.

Our prime minister asked the Turkish minister of state about the condition of the Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Turkey, and expressed great apprehension over the Iraqi regime's intentions toward the future generation of Iraqi Kurds.

Holds News Conference

TA1209114288 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] State Minister Yusuf Bozkurt Ozal has said that economic and trade relations with Iran will be promoted. During a news conference he held after concluding his official contacts in Tehran, Ozal said his talks with Iranian officials were beneficial. He added that his impressions from these talks are that the good economic and trade relations that existed between the two countries during the war will be better now that the war is over.

Ozal noted that the two countries have complementary economies and that prospects of cooperation exist in many fields. He added that Iranian officials shared his belief.

ANATOLIA reports that in response to a journalist's question, Ozal said that should Turkey become a full EEC member, the Islamic world will have won membership in the world's most economically powerful organization. In this way, Turkey will play the role of a middleman between the EC and the Islamic world, he added.

Talks With Besharati

LD1209150988 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal met acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here yesterday and discussed with him recent developments in Iran-Turkey trade ties.

On the Iraqi Kurdish refugees Ozal said 80,000 Iraqi Kurds have taken refuge in Turkey. But according to Kurdish sources over 150,000 refugees have crossed into Turkey.

In response, Besharati said the Islamic Republic accepted Resolution 598 in order to achieve a lasting and honorable peace. He stressed that Iran was serious in its decision, but regretted that Iraqi officials are trying to tamper the resolution by undermining it and raising irrelevant issues.

Iran has announced that a durable peace could be achieved only within the framework of Resolution 598, U.N. chief's (Javier Perez de Cuellar) implementation plan, and the 1975 accord, he noted.

Returns to Turkey

LD1209151988 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal left here for Ankara Monday at the end of a three-day visit and talks with Iranian officials.

Upon his departure, Ozal in a brief interview with reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad airport described as "fruitful" the outcome of his talks with Iranian officials.

Ozal said that he and iranian officials had studied ways of implementing the articles of a protocol signed by the two countries after their joint economic commission earlier.

He said that during his visit to Tehran, 'fruitful' talks had been held on the expansion of Tehran-Ankara cooperation in the fields of trade, industry and construction work.

Commenting on his visit to the 14th Tehran International Fair which opened here today, Ozal said Iranian industrial goods displayed at the fair proves the fact that Iran's industry is more advanced compared to that of many regional countries.

He said there are many industries in Iran which can supplement Turkish industries and the two countries can start mutual cooperation in this regard.

Envoy to USSR Meets With Vorontsov

LD0309154888 Tehran IRNA in English 1252 GMT 3 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 3, IRNA—Iranian ambassador to Moscow Naser Heyrani-Nobari met with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov Friday and discussed with him the trend of U.N.-mediated Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva.

Heyrani-Nobari said the Iraqi regime's stance on redrawing the internationally-recognized border and violating official agreements to which it was a signatory indicates that Baghdad imposed the war on Iran to materialize its expansionist goals.

The Iranian ambassador also said the U.N. and countries truly loving peace should condemn the Baghdad Ba'thist regime for imposing a nearly 8 year old war on both Iranian and Iraqi peoples.

Larijani Comments on Ties With West, USSR

LD1009092288 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Rome, Sept. 10, IRNA—Iran's Deputy foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani remarked on the future of the Geneva peace talks and improvement of Iran's relations with certain Western countries in an interview here Friday.

Larijani confirmed that Iraqi regime's hinderances continue in the Geneva talks. He said the U.N. chief should exert pressure on the party which obstructs the progress of the talks.

Larijani denied any connection between Iran's acceptance of the Resolution 598 and improvement in Tehran's relations with certain Western countries.

Noting that the Soviet Union gave the most support to Iraq during the war, Larijani said recent remarks by the Soviet official show that this country is willing to compensate for its past operations during peace time.

On Tehran-London relations, he predicted that the current trend in ties would lead to the full diplomatic relations between the two countries, however, he refuted rumours on contacts between Tehran and Washington for resumption of relations.

Elsewhere, Larijani referring to the Geneva talks said that Iraq violated the framework over which the two countries had reached agreement in New York simply by setting arbitrary pre-conditions to the peace talks such as a demand for dredging the Arvand River and its navigation rights in the Persian Gulf.

Larijani said that the border lines between the two countries have clearly been defined in the 1975-accord. He said if the 1975-accord can be abrogated unilaterally simply because border disputes between Iraq and Iran date back to the past, therefore, no border can be said to exist between the world countries now the present boundaries between countries may be disregarded. "The United Nations and the Security Council were established to guarantee the world geographical situation and preserve the security of the countries," he added.

He said if Baghdad should seek to violate Iran's indisputed rights this amounts to an utter aggression which would jeopardize peace and security, but that it should choose to abandon its bullying and revise its stances to the Revolution 598, the peace talks would have a promising future.

Asked about his talks in Paris last week with French Premier Michel Rocard and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, he said that they centered on the ongoing Geneva peace talks aimed at ending the Iraq-Iran war.

More on the talks he said that the Persian Gulf security was also raised and that Premier Rocard expressed determination of his country for expansion of diplomatic relations with Iran.

On Iran's pesistance on punishment of Saddam as the initiator of the war and Iran's acceptance of the UN Resolution 598 Larijani said that Iran accepted the resolution because lately Iraqi-imposed war had found an international scope and that security of the region was in serious jeopardy.

More on Iran's expanded diplomatic ties with Western countries and the Soviet Union, Larijani said that the process had started long before Iran accepted the resolution last July. He added that there existed and still exists a sort of fear from the Iranian revolution in some capitals.

This he said made them to come up with unjustifiable stances towards Iran. This could be overcome and countries could enjoy healthy relations regardless of the nature of their governments, he added.

Commenting more on rumors on Iran-U.S. relations he said "From Iran's view relations with Moscow, Washington and any other country follows a certain set of fixed principles. It is not that we consider a group of them as bad. We always put the interest of the revolution and Islam on top."

"The main problem on the way of the Iran-U.S. relations is the hostile and irrational policies of that country towards Iran." As long as this remains talks with them will have no use. The point that we are not negotiating with the U.S. is not that we are fearful of such talks. "If they change their policy and act with mutual respect and refrain from interfering in our affairs, relations with U.S. will be like relations with other countries and this is for the benefit of the both countries," he added.

And finally in response to a question that the recent resignation of Premier Hoseyn Musavi which was turned down by Imam Khomeyni and president 'Ali Khamene'i has been interpreted in the West as a consequence of Iran's acceptance of the UN Resolution, he said such claims are surprising.

He added in Western countries cabinets are reshuffled and governments resign often, a move interpreted in West as a sign of strength and democracy. He stressed that the resignation would not have affected the course of Geneva talks.

Larijani left for West Germany Friday morning at the end of a two-day visit and talks with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Khamene'i Speaks at Trade Fair Opening

Advocates Technology Transfer

LD1209120788 Tehran IRNA English 1107 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—President Khamene'i said at the opening ceremonies of the 14th Tehran international trade fair here today that Iran is mainly interested in transfer of foreign technology rather than importing ready-made hardware. He said the Islamic government encourages the Iranian entrepreneurs who have plans for the industrial infra-structure of the Iranian society, and not those who mean to pocket the largest profit without respect to the eventual impact of their business to the Iranian nation.

Khamene'i who was addressing a large group of Iranian industrialists, government officials, and foreign guests at the compounds of Tehran international trade fair in uptown Tehran said the Islamic Republic gives necessary freedom to entrepreneurs and financiers in order that they contribute to the industrial and economic well-being of the Iranian society, but that it will not give them unconditional licence for activities counter to their responsibilities as citizens of the Islamic republic.

He said the fact that Tehran is now the venue for the 14th international trade fair is good evidence of the resistance of the Iranian people in their defensive war with the Iraqi Government.

The Iranian president criticized the predominance of U.S.-dictated foreign trade policies before the revolution in Iran and commented that for 25 years before the Islamic revolution petro-dollars in Iran were not expended on industrial and economic self-sufficiency projects. He said for eight years since the culmination of the Islamic revolution in Iran the Iranians were preoccupied with an unwanted war with the Iraqi regime, which development in its own rights served to demonstrate the capacity of Iran's Muslim people for self-reliance and resistance. In his inaugural speech President Khamene'i also referred in passing to Iraq's hampering of the Geneva peace talks, saying that the Iraqi delegation has tried 'crude ways' for rendering the UN Security Council resolution 598 practically ineffective. He warned that if the Iraqi Government should seek war then it will be challenging the same heavy fist which it has experienced during the past eight years."

A large group of foreign diplomats and foreign government officials were among the guests at the opening ceremonies of the 14th Tehran international trade fair here today.

Speaks on Economic Development

LD1209132388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] This morning, after a speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the 14th international commerce exhibition of Tehran opened, attended by a number of state and miliatry officials as well as the ROK energy minister, Turkey's minister of state for economic affairs, Poland's housing minister and his entourage, and ambassadors and charges d'affaire from various foreign countries.

At the opening ceremony of the 10-day exhibition, where 36 countries were showing their industrial products, the Commerce Ministry head began by delivering a short speech noting the sustained efforts by the state and public and comparing the past regime's most productive years, including 1975 to 1977, when the highest figures of nonoil exports reached $1 billion. He said: We will continue our efforts and will pursue the country's reconstruction and development, too.

Later, President Khamene'i gave a speech discussing the question of trade and intervention of politicians, saying: Unfortunately, trade today has become a weapon to enslave people of the world. While in Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia cries of starvation go up to heaven, and while drought is rampant and the FAO issues warnings about this, the United States pursues its act of using food, the primary need of countries, as a political weapon of power. The U.S. agriculture secretary even openly admits the above. Further, the harshest oppression is waged against oil producers by abusing oil trade practices. Oil producing countries are forced to use up their revenues for daily expenses because of intervention by global arrogance and plots to reduce oil prices and income, and other plots by the superpowers. They have not yet been able to show economic growth or pay their debts.

The president added: Prior to the victory by the Islamic revolution, affluence was propagated in the society and oil revenues were not used for infrastructure or economic projects. However, after the Islamic revolution's victory the basis and guarantee for political independence became economic independence. With our ample natural resources, our nation has put behind us the imposed war and the embargoes. Today, our nation is about to begin the true task of growth and development. This has become a model for the oppresed nations to begin their task of self-structuring.

He added: We are determnined to achieve self-sufficiency. To this end, we do not intend to test others' experiences. We accept the world's knowledge and technology as a standard and an inseparable part of foreign trade. We intend to utilize the technical assistance of participant countries in connection with our country's efforts for reconstruction, as part of economic development.

We have bitter experiences with foreign investments in our country. But these experiences will not be an obstacle for those countries wishing to establish healthy ties and trade. With long-term investments we will be able to uproot depravity in this country. The necessary planning and investments, guidance and supervision in economic activities are among the government's duties. Those who think the private sector should serve the interests of a comfort-seeking minority and exacerbate depravity are incapable of understanding the Islamic Republic system. Freedom exists in the Islamic Republic of Iran, but anarchy does not.

Regarding the private sector, he said: That sector should utilize the country's idle currency for manufacturing activities. They should consider the interests of the Islamic Republic before their own profit-making. The government should utilize its facilities to grant its blessings even to the private sector. [as heard]

Finally, he said that even cabinet members are oppressed, and many officials' standard of living is the same or lower than average. He added: Officials are never in support of the capitalists. They live in deliverance and freedom. But since there should be investment in industry and agriculture, the private sector factories and institutes that could be more productive and lower production costs would definitely be working in the interests of the oppressed.

Of course, the wealthy should also seek to create jobs and increase the GNP.

Finally, the president inspected some pavilions in the fair.

Text of Prime Minister's Resignation

PM1209141588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Sep 88 pp 1-14

["Text" of resignation letter addressed to President Khamene'i from Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi]

[Text] According to an IRNA report from Tehran, the president has not accepted Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's resignation. According to the president's office, President Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i this morning wrote a letter to the prime minister, refusing to accept his resignation.

Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi last night sent a letter explaining his resignation to the president. Here is a text of the prime minister's letter.

In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. Dear brother, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i respected president: Warm greetings.

1. The dear and dedicated brother Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani resigned from his post as minister of plan and budget on 4 September. This resignation comes at a time when the decisions concerning the selection of ministers for Energy, Reconstruction Crusade, and Commerce are still vague.

Keeping in mind the clear direction taken by the Majlis and also the information received from within the respected Majlis, it is possible that between five and eight ministers introduced for a vote of confidence will not receive enough votes to carry on their duties. What this means is that the government, under the present conditions of the country, will not have ministers in several sensitive ministries for an indefinite time.

2. Let us keep in mind all the points raised as well as the problem raised in selecting ministers with regard to differences that arise between the two sides when the time comes to choose a minister—in some cases it has taken up to 1 year to select a minister. I regard the true nature of the differences that arise among the president, the prime minister, and the Majlis to be within the spirit of the Constitution and recognize it to be best for the country to lean toward the Majlis which is a collection of the people's votes. I also believe it to be best for the country in these cases if the president and the prime minister obey this. Therefore, in accordance with Clause 135 of the Constitution, I hereby hand in my resignation. The necessary reasons for this are enclosed.

I hope this resignation will provide the necessary conditions for the establishment of a government whose prime minister can act with full power, using the guidelines of the respected title of jurisconsult and also the powers that are mentioned in Article 134 of the Constitution, which include undeniable rights to oversee the work of ministers, coordination of various government decisions in all economic, social, cultural, domestic, and foreign issues, as well as providing plans and programs for the government.

3. In accordance with Article 135 of the Constitution, I shall fully carry out my duties until the selection of a new prime minister and the members of the serving government will gladly and forcefully carry on with their duties.

4. Naturally, until the selection of a new government, the brother Dr Velayati will have our full backing as foreign minister to voice the official views of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Geneva peace talks. He will continue his duties with the help of guidelines received from the heads of the three branches of power.

I also would like to take this opportunity to add:

A. If this serving government has managed to do service acceptable to our free and dedicated people, with the help of the Lord, during the hard years of war and jihad, it is only because of the support it received from the great leader of the revolution and the selfless and martyr-nurturing people.

The miracle of holy defense and resistance of the past 8 years is due to the imam and his great ummah. If the government only has managed to achieve the title of "a government that serves the people," it has achieved the greatest of honors. In this regard, I find myself embarrassed in front of the people and the great imam.

B. I, as a very small servant, and under any conditions and in accordance with my ability, will take orders from the new prime minister and his government, if, God willing, he will not ignore the small service which I may be able to give.

The aggressive powers of the world should know that differences of opinion with regard to domestic and foreign issues in the Islamic Republic, our Islamic and revolutionary country will not let us forget the need to unify our ranks to face their plots, especially those of the Great Satan, the United States.

Our people surely know that, in a free and proud society where the effects of dependence and dictatorship have vanished, the coming and going of various governments is something natural which if God willing will bring much good for the people.

[Signed] Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Prime Minister, 5 September 1988

Musavi Followers Said Against Western Aid

TA0909180288 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that the majority of Mir Hoseyn Musavi's cabinet, who are members of the so-called student followers of the Imam's line, oppose the expansion of the regime's economic relations with Western countries. They are expressing this opposition in various ways.

Abol Qasem Sarhadizadeh, the regime's minister of labor and social affairs, went so far in his opposition a while ago that he said: The Western countries' interest in rebuilding Iran is a plot by world arrogance.

Our fellow strugglers have reported that with such ministers it is not clear how the Islamic regime wants to repair the damages of 8 years of war and reactivate the country's industries without the help of foreign capital and advanced technology.

58 Said Executed as Turkey Turns Back Iranians

TA0909180388 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpts] A while ago we announced on the Flag of Freedom radio the names of 58 Iranian refugees who were handed back to the Islamic Republic by the Turkish police. Reports from Turkey now indicate that these refugees were executed on the spot after being delivered to the IRGC command in the Qotur region. [passage omitted]

It is clear that the IRGC executed 58 of our compatriots, without wasting time, with the knowledge of Turkish security, gendarmerie, and border officials.

Pakistan

F-16's Hit 2 Intruding Afghan Planes 12 Sep

BK1209153288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1510 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Six Afghan planes violated Pakistan's airspace in the north of Nawagai in NWFP at 0640 [0140 GMT] this morning with the intention of bombing Pakistani territory.

F-16 planes of the Pakistani Air Force intercepted the intruding planes and targetted two of them with air-to-air missiles at a great height. The video and electronic equipment installed in the F-16's proved that two intruding planes were hit by missiles. For a final confirmation, the search for the wreckage of the planes continues. The planes of the Pakistani Air Force have returned to base safely.

Minister Pledges 'Complete Freedom' in Election

PM1309082588 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic
6 Sep 88 p 4

[Report on interview with Interior Minister Malik Nasim Ahmad Ahir by Badr al-Ghanimi in Islamabad; date not given]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with 'UKAZ, Pakistani Interior Minister Nasim Ahmad Ahir confirmed that the Pakistani Government formed two teams to investigate the causes of the aircraft explosion which claimed the life of the late Pakistani President Ziaul Haq and that it was awaiting the results of the forensic tests currently being carried out on some parts of the aircraft in the United States. He said that results of the investigation will be announced later but not all details related to the incident will be revealed.

On the security situation in Pakistan, the Pakistani interior minister said that some groups in Pakistan and abroad were trying to destabilize the situation but, with God's help and with the cooperation of the Pakistani people and security organs, we will be able to destroy all attempts to subvert and foment disturbances in Pakistan. He added: We are watching the situation closely, and Pakistan has the necessary means to maintain security.

He spoke of foreign challenges and pressures on Pakistan related to Ziaul Haq's assassination but, he said, Pakistan's Islamic faith will enable it to overcome all pressures.

On the opposition parties' accusation that the government repressively used the emergency law to deny these parties their freedom to hold meetings, the Pakistani interior minister said that the emergency law was based on the Constitution. The truth is, he said, that after the martyrdom of the late President Ziaul Haq, Pakistan was and still is in the grip of a political crisis because of the vacant presidency, the absence of a house of representatives, and the numerous internal and external plots. The violation of the Pakistani borders, he added, was perhaps evidence of this; and if the emergency law was not implemented in these circumstances, when could it be implemented? Furthermore, the government had not denied any party the right to hold meetings and expected the opposition to contribute to the protection of Pakistan's security and unity instead of raising such issues in these crucial times.

On differences between the government and the opposition parties and whether or not he expected these differences to reach the point of armed conflict, he said that differences naturally exist and are real, but they are differences over political ideology and concepts and do not affect relations between them at all. These relations, he said, have not reached the point of collision.

On the question of containing the differences between the Sunnis and Shi'ites in Pakistan at this critical stage in the country's history, he said that the Muslim ulema have applied the true and essential teachings of Islam and have lived up to their responsibilities, that there has been no conflict among them, and that this fact reflects consciousness and tolerance emanating from the principles of Islam in the interest of the nation's unity.

Regarding the late President Ziaul Haq's maintaining that internal troubles were caused by those opposed to the application of Islamic law, the scale of such opposition, and the question of whether it could obstruct the implementation of Islamic law after President Ziaul Haq, he pointed out that Pakistan was founded on the Islam way of life; that if there was a group that did not believe in or did not tolerate the implementation of Islamic law, that group, compared woth the Islamic majority, was a small minority which could not jeopardize the implementation process begun by Ziaul Haq; and that this process will continue in all fields.

Asked about the controls and precautions introduced or to be introduced to prevent rigging of the coming elections, as in the past, he said: We will allow no one to tamper with the elections; there will be no rigging. There will be complete freedom, without discrimination, for all the people in the elections.

Yaqub Khan Returns From Nonaligned Meeting

BK1309022488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has described the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] foreign ministers conference as successful from Pakistan's point of view. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this afternoon on his return from Nicosia after attending the conference.

He said an important aspect of the conference from their point of view was to dispel the impression that with the signing of the Geneva accords the issue of Afghanistan had been settled. Their effort was to involve attention on the point that the Geneva accords had merely paved the way for a comprehensive settlement and that such a settlement still needed to be arrived at. The comprehensive settlement included withdrawal of Soviet forces and that the withdrawal should be according to the schedule of the Geneva accords. It was also stressed that the settlement should bring peace to Afghanistan so that the refugees could return to their homes with dignity and honor. To achieve this, it was also emphasized that a broad-based government was essential in Afghanistan. All their points were fully incorporated in the final declaration of the conference.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said he highlighted air violations that had been taking place. These violations were not only against international law, but also against the

Geneva accords. He also drew attention of the delegates to instances of subversion and acts of sabotage which continue to occur in Pakistan.

The foreign minister said he drew the attention to the devastation caused in Bangladesh by unprecedented floods.

Sind Governor Stresses Need For Islamic System

BK1009032288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Addressing a function in Karachi yesterday, the [Sind] provincial governor, Retired General Rahimuddin, stressed the importance of a system based on Islamic teachings so as to ensure the country's progress and prosperity. He said that the most urgent need of the time is to transform the existing system into an Islamic socio-economic system. The provincial chief minister, Akhtar Ali Kazi, also addressed the function.

Qadiruddin Ahmad Sworn In As New Sind Governor

BK1209101388 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Mr Justice, Retired, Qadiruddin Ahmad took oath of office of the governor of Sind at the Governor House in Karachi at a simple ceremony this morning. The chief justice of the Sind High Court, Mr Mohammad Ajmal Mian, administered the oath. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

President Directs Commission To Hold Elections

BK1309041088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, has directed the election commission to hold elections to the northeastern provincial council. The commission will now initiate process for holding the elections. Mr Jayewardene had announced on Saturday [10 September] the merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces into a single unit.

Detenues Slated for Release

BK1009160988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka have been merged into a single unit, fulfilling the main demand of the Tamils. A proclamation to this effect was issued by President Jayewardene last night. The decision follows hectic political discussions with the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit.

Mr Jayewardene discussed the issue with his cabinet colleagues and other senior colleagues. As a confidence building measure, the Sri Lankan Government has also decided to release most of the detenues who come under the purview of the general amnesty envisaged in the India-Sri Lanka accord. There are about 500 to 600 such detenues. [passage omitted]

Government Requests Shops Reopen, Buses Operate

BK1209112388 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0941 GMT 12 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—The government today in a communique (?requested all shopkeepers who have) closed their shops due to terrorist threats to open them immediately.

The communique states: Government requests all shopkeepers who have closed their shops due to terrorist threats to open their shops immediately as the public is being inconvenienced by such closure. The police and the Army will undertake to give them all protection.

All private bus owners are requested to start operating their buses immediately in order not to inconvenience the public. Failure to comply with this request will necessitate the cancellation of route licenses and the requisition of buses.

BBC on General Strike

BK1209125188 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Sep 88

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Now to Sri Lanka where transport is at a halt and businesses have remained closed at the beginning of the 2d week of protest over the death in police custody of a lawyer. A general strike has been called by an extreme group among the majority Sinhalese community known as the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] or People's Liberation Front. The lawyer is said to have been a member of the JVP who had ordered the assassination of several important public figures. From Colombo (Chris Nuttel) reports:

[Begin (Nuttel) recording] The streets of the capital have been unusually quiet for a Monday. Buses have not been running and stores, restaurants, schools, and offices have failed to open. The law courts have also not been functioning. A similar situation is reported in other parts of the country with a massive response to the JVP's strike call, although people appear to be acting as much out of fear of reprisals by the organization as genuine support for it. The main railway line along the southwest coast is said to have been damaged in an explosion at the holiday resort of Hikkadduwa and a bus is reported to have been set on fire near Colombo's international airport. The government has ordered a full inquiry into the death in police custody 10 days ago of the lawyer, (Vijayadasa Sallinarachchi). A postmortem examination revealed he had suffered more than 100 injuries and death had been due to an attack with blunt weapons. The JVP, which is antigovernment and represents extreme Sinhalese nationalism, has ordered further disruption on 17 September, which marks the 82d birthday of Sri Lanka's leader President Jayewardene. [end recording]